

# This Day in History

(August 15)

Today is Thursday; 24<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Mordad 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 13<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Zil-Hijjah 1440 lunar hijri; and August 15, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1441 lunar years ago**, on this day in the year preceding the hijrah, or the historical migration to Medina of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), the Second Pledge of Aqaba took place, when a group of Muslims from Medina and other places came to Mecca to reaffirm their allegiance to Islam. This was followed up to the First Pledge of Aqaba that had ended the long feud between the Ows and Khazraj tribes, through the mediation of the Prophet, thus winning fresh adherents to Islam. After the Second Pledge of Aqaba, the people of Medina invited the Prophet to come to their city. The Prophet's migration, on divine command, a year later, was a turning point in human history and opened a new chapter in the spread of Islam.

**1383 solar years ago**, on this day in 636 AD, a series of 6-day military encounters, known as the Battle of Yarmouk started near Yarmouk River in Palestine between the neo-Muslim Arab forces and the Christian armies of Byzantine (Eastern Roman Empire), resulting in the decisive victory of Muslims and opening the way for Islamicization of Syria. This was start of a new phase of wars in the Levant-Mesopotamia region between new adversaries, only 8 years after the end of the 26-year long (602-to 628) last and deadliest round of the Byzantine-Sassanid wars that had raged for almost four centuries.

**1301 solar years ago**, on this day in 718 AD, the naval and land forces of the Omayyad regime of Damascus were forced to lift the Second Arab Siege of Constantinople after a year and a month of unsuccessful efforts to conquer the capital of the Byzantine Empire.

**1241 solar years ago**, on this day in 778 AD, the Battle of Roncevaux Pass occurred in the Pyrenees Mountains in Spain between the rearguard of the retreating army of Charlemagne of France and the Basques, resulting in the death of the famous knight, Roland. It was not fought between Christians and Muslims, as alleged, but the Muslims did play a crucial role during the invasion of northern Spain by the French and their retreat, when Sulaiman al-Arabi, the pro-Abbasid governor of Barcelona and Girona, along with Hussain of Zaragoza and Abu Taur of Huesca promised Charlemagne military aid against Abdur-Rahman I, the Omayyad Emir of Cordoba.

**1093 solar years ago**, on this day in 927 AD, Muslims from North Africa, after bringing the island of Sicily under Islamic rule, took control of the city of Taranto in Apulia, southern Italy, before evacuating it. In the preceding century also, the Muslims, after taking control of Sicily, had established a foothold in southern Italy, founding the emirate of Bari, which fell over a half-a-century earlier in 871 to the savage onslaught of the Christian forces of Holy Roman Emperor Louis II, who massacred Muslims, burned libraries, and turned mosques into churches.

**1064 lunar years ago**, on this day in 376 AH, the Muslim mathematician Ali ibn Ahmad Antaki, passed away. He was born in the Syrian city of Antakya (formerly Antioch and under Turkey's occupation since 1937), and later took up residence in Baghdad to learn sciences. Among the books written by him is "*al-Mawazin al-Aadadiyah*".

**1037 solar years ago**, on this day in 982 AD, the Holy Roman Emperor Otto II was decisively defeated by the Muslim forces of the Fatimid Ismaili Shi'a Muslim caliphate of Egypt-Syria-North Africa at the Battle of Capo Colonna, in Calabria, southern Italy.

**250 solar years ago**, on this day in 1769 AD, French general and emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte, was born in Ajaccio on the island of Corsica in a relatively modest family of Italian ancestry.

**142 solar years ago**, on this day in 1877 AD, Thomas Edison coined the telephone greeting "Hello." He suggested the use of "Hello" to the president of the Telegraph Company to answer the phone instead of "ahoy-ahoy" suggested by Alexander Bell.

**105 solar years ago**, on this in 1914 AD the Panama Canal was cut through the Isthmus of the same name at the narrowest point in Central America, to join the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, was opened to traffic with transit of the cargo ship "SS Ancon".

**103 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1356 AH, the Islamic scholar and revolutionary, Ayatollah Mirza Mohammad Taqi Golshan Ha'eri Shirazi, passed away in the holy city of Karbala in Iraq at the age of 80 during the height of the struggle against British domination of the country, and is believed to have been martyred through poisoning by colonialist agents. He authored several books.

**83 solar years ago**, on this day in 1936 AD, Grand Ayatollah Allamah Mirza Mohammad Hussein Na'ini, passed away at the age of 79. Born in a religious family in Na'in, central Iran, after completion of preliminary studies, he left for higher studies at the famous seminary of holy Najaf in Iraq, where his teachers included such prominent ulema as Mirza Hassan Shirazi (of the antitobacco fatwa against British exploitation of the Iranian economy). Besides theology he was well versed in mathematics, philosophy, and mysticism. His most important work is "*Tanbih al-Umma va Tanziha al-Milla*" which outlines the duties of ulema and people and the necessity of campaign against tyrannical regimes. This was an effective step by Ayatollah Naini in awakening the Iranian people, whose struggles against despotism and foreign hegemony triumphed under the guidance of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA). Among his other books, is "*Wasilat an-Naja'at*".

**72 solar years ago**, on this day in 1947 AD, India gained independence from British colonial rule after years of struggles.

**71 solar years ago**, on this day in 1948 AD, the South Korean Republic was formed south of the 38th parallel in the American occupied southern part of the Korean Peninsula, which continues to remain divided against the will of the people, because of the unwanted presence of US troops.

**50 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1389 AH Grand Ayatollah Sheikh Mohammad Mohsin, popular as Aqa Bozorg Tehrani, passed away in the holy city of Najaf, Iraq, at the age of 96. He also compiled a biographical encyclopedia of Shi'a Muslim scholars as a companion to "*az-Zari'a*", titled "*Tabaqaat A'laam ash-Shi'a*", but each section, pertaining to the scholars of a given century, also has a separate title. Aqa Bozorg Tehrani's influence was not limited to the admiration elicited by his decades of industrious scholarship. He exchanged numerous "*ijazat*" (licenses of transmission) with the scholars of Hadith, both Shi'a and Sunni, whom he met in the course of his travels - a practice he consciously sought to revive as vital to the cultivation of Islamic scholarship.

**44 solar years ago**, in 1975 AD, Bangladesh's founder, Sheikh Mujibur-Rahman, was killed along with most members of his family during a military coup launched by his own disgruntled Awami League officers headed by Khondkar Mushtaq Ahmad. Mujib led the struggle for secession of East Pakistan from Islamabad's rule and its renaming as Bangladesh in 1971 with the support of India. The present prime minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, is his daughter.

**14 solar years ago**, on this day in 2005 AD, because of Palestinian resistance, the Zionist entity was forced to withdraw from the Gaza Strip, which it had occupied in 1967. Israel continues to keep the West Bank under its control despite the 1993 agreement with the PLO to evacuate it. Gaza and its 1.5 million people are under siege for the past several years, and have been subjected to periodic holocausts.

**7 solar years ago**, on this day in 2012 AD, Iranian mathematician, Prof Manuchehr Vesaal, known as Father of Analytical Mathematics, passed away in his hometown Tehran.

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

# Scientists Summoned to Find Non-Invasive Brain Stimulation Method



TEHRAN (IFP) -- Iran's Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has launched a competition among researchers for designing and building a non-invasive deep-brain stimulation system inside the country.

The challenge of designing and building a non-invasive deep-brain

stimulation system as the first activity to address such challenges has been launched to test the human resources, specialized centers, technology centers and infrastructure available in the country.

Mohammad Hossein Maqami, Head of the Cerebral Implants

Working Group, says training of specialised human resources as well as orientation of dispersed professional activities next to creation of suitable conditions for strong international presence in various fields of research, industry, and applied sciences are among the secondary goals of running this challenge.

Based on recent studies, brain stimulation of nerve cells by various non-invasive methods including electrical, electromagnetic, optical and ultrasound stimulation are valuable solutions to improve disorders caused by stroke, addiction, migraine, depression, tinnitus, chronic pain, and the like, he said. "Given the prevalence of these disorders, activity in the development of noninvasive brain stimulation devices can be a promising measure to improve patients' quality of life."

According to him, the choice of mechanism for non-invasive and deep brain stimulation in this challenge is free and can be in any of the modalities of electrical, electromagnetic, ultrasound or any other applicable modality in the country.

Knowledge-based companies, professors and researchers at universities and institutes of higher education, inventors as well as student groups can submit their proposals by registering in the cognitive science system portal, the official said.

According to the information that will be released soon through the website, the proposals will be assessed by the jury and will compete in two fields. It should be noted that after judging, the top teams in each field that have defended their projects better will be awarded a cash prize.

## Iran Animated Film Participates at South Korea Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iranian animated film 'The Sixth String' directed by Bahram Azimi will take part at the 15th Indie-AniFest Korea Independent Animation Film Festival in South Korea.

'The Sixth String' is about the life of Darvish Khan, a Persian classical musician and Tar player, who passed away 90 years ago in a car accident. He is known as the first victim of a car accident in Iran.

The animation had previously taken part at the 9th International Animation Film Festival (IAFF) Golden Kuker- Sofia in Bulgaria, and most recently won the best



A still from Iranian animated film 'The Sixth String'.

animation award at the 7th Shahr International Film Festival in Tehran.

The 15th Indie-AniFest, organized by KIAFA, Korean Independent Animation Filmmakers Association and co-organized by Indie-AniFest Executive Committee will take place in Seoul from 19th to 24th September, 2019.

Indie Ani-Fest is a festival that seeks to introduce wonderful, independent animation from Korea and Asia, offering diversity and opportunity as well as communication with the audience. The festival values 'Independence', 'Experiment', 'Passion' and 'Vision' in the selected films, according to the event's website.

## 'Cradle of Silence' Competes at in U.S. Reading Festival

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- 'Cradle of Silence' by Iran director Mostafa Mehraban has been selected to compete at the 5th Reading Film Festival in the U.S.

This is the 6th presence of the short at international festivals.

Mehraban's short will compete with shorts from the U.S., Australia, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Afghanistan, Russia, Turkey, France, Spain, and England.

The 13-minute short narrates the story of Rasoul who has to deliver a cradle to his martyred friend's wife. Rasoul has recently returned from the southern warzone, and his wife, Laya, intends to return to the warzone along with him. The cradle becomes an excuse for Rasoul not to entertain her request.

The short was previously selected to vie at 2019 New York's Montauk Film Festival on July 25-28.

Reading film festival aims to bring filmmakers and film lovers together. The event is

a chance for film creators to interact with their audiences and engage in meaningful dialogues with them.

Running on October 31-November 3, the fest is due to be held in the U.S. state of Pennsylvania.



A still from 'Cradle of Silence' by Iran director Mostafa Mehraban.

## Picture of the Day



The 9th National Tambourine Playing Festival started in the western Iranian city of Sanandaj on Tuesday and will go on through Friday. Artists from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and India will perform 304 pieces during the event. Courtesy: Mehr News Agency