

This Day in History

(August 24)

Today is Saturday, 2nd of the Iranian month of Shahrivar 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 22nd of the Islamic month of Zil-Hijjah 1440 lunar hijri; and August 24, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1940 solar years ago, on this day in 79 AD, Mount Vesuvius in Italy erupted, burying in volcanic ash and molten lava the Roman cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Stabiae, which were notorious as vice dens of the Empire. An estimated 20,000 people were struck by divine wrath.

1609 solar years ago, on this day in 410 AD, Rome was sacked by the Visigoths, led by Alaric I. This was the first time in almost 800 years that Rome had fallen to a foreign enemy. The previous sack of Rome had been carried out by the Gauls under their leader Brennus in 387 BC. The sacking of 410 is seen as a major landmark in the fall of the Western Roman Empire.

1380 lunar years ago, on this day in 60 AH, the staunch Muslim, Maysam at-Tammar (Date-Seller), was brutally martyred in Kufa, Iraq, by Obaidollah Ibn Ziyad, the tyrannical governor of the Godless Yazid.

959 lunar years ago, on this day in 481 AH, the famous Iranian Gnostic and poet, Khwaja Abdullah Ansari, known as *"Pir-e Herat"*, or Senior Citizen of the Khorasani city of Herat, passed away at the age of 85 in his hometown – currently in Afghanistan. He traced his lineage to Abu Ayyub Ansari, a companion and host in Medina of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He wrote valuable books including an exegesis of the Holy Qur'an in Arabic titled *"Kashf al-Asraar"*. He composed excellent poetry in his native Persian, and authored several works in both Arabic and Persian, such as *"Munajaat-Namah"*, and *"Kitab al-Arba'een"*. He is the ancestor of the Heravi-Khwajavi line in Iran that once dominated Khorasan and eastern Iran.

834 solar years ago, on this day in 1185, the Greek city of Thessalonica was sacked by Normans of the Kingdom of Sicily. It was one of the worst disasters to befall the Byzantine Empire. The Norman invasion degenerated quickly into a full-scale massacre of the city's inhabitants; some 7,000 corpses being found afterwards.

670 solar years ago, on this day in 1349 AD, six thousand Jews were massacred by Christians in Mainz, Germany, after being blamed for the bubonic plague. In Europe, throughout history, Jews were denied rights and subjected to periodic massacres for betraying Prophet Jesus and slandering his virgin mother, Mary (peace upon them).

503 solar years ago, on this day in 1516 AD, the decisive Battle of Marj Dabiq (44 km from Aleppo), resulted in a resounding victory for the Ottoman Sultan Selim I over the Mamluk Sultan al-Ashraf Qansuh al-Ghawri of Egypt-Syria-Hijaz, ending within the next five months the 267-year old Mamluk Dynasty and transforming the Ottomans from a realm on the margin of Islamic lands located in Asia Minor and south-western Europe, into a huge empire encompassing the historical cities of Cairo, Damascus, Bayt al-Moqaddas and Aleppo, as well as the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

447 solar years ago, on this day in 1572 AD, the slaughter of French Protestants at the hands of Catholics began in Paris as Charles IX of France attempted to rid the country of Huguenots. Charles, under the sway of his mother Catherine de Medici, believed the Huguenot Protestants were plotting a revolution. A total of 50,000 Huguenots including their leader, Admiral Gaspard de Chastillon, Count de Coligny, were killed in and around Paris. Known as the St. Bartholomew Day Massacre, it led to the conviction in Europe that Catholicism was a bloody and treacherous religion.

205 solar years ago, on this day in 1814 AD, British troops captured the city of Washington the capital of the US and burned down the White House and other government buildings including the Capitol in the war of 1812-14 in retaliation for the US attack on Canada and the destruction of many public buildings in York (present day Toronto). The war ended in truce, followed by recognition of the USA by Britain, which until then regarded the 13 breakaway colonies of New England as rebellious territories and sought to bring them under the crown.

199 lunar years ago, on this day in 1241 AH, the second Russo-Iranian war started. The cause was the continued hostility of Russia that had seized the northwestern territories of Iran in the Caucasus. Despite the courage displayed by Prince Abbas Mirza who achieved initial success and pushed back the Russians, the Iranian army was defeated because of lack of supply and support from Tehran, where Fath-Ali Shah was immersed in inefficiency and pleasures. The disgraceful Turkmenchai Treaty was forced upon Iran, which had to cede to Russia the region of Daghestan west of the Caspian Sea, and areas north of the River Aras, including what is now called the Republic of Azerbaijan.

198 solar years ago, on this day in 1821 AD, Mexico became free from Spanish colonial rule. Mexico has an ancient history, dating back to almost 5,000 BC, as the cradle of important civilizations; the last of which was the Aztec Empire, which the Spanish invaders destroyed and massacred thousands of the indigenous people.

90 solar years ago, on this day in 1929 AD, the Wailing Wall Uprising started in Bayt al-Moqaddas, a week after the illegal Zionist migrants from Europe had attacked Palestinian Muslims on the western side of the sacred al-Aqsa Mosque. The uprising quickly spread and the British forces in league with armed Zionist terrorist gangs brutally confronted the Palestinians, resulting in the death of many people and injury to several others. Over 800 Palestinians were tried in the Kangaroo courts of the British and given various sentences for defending their homes and hearths against the illegal armed Zionist intruders.

54 lunar years ago, on this day in 1386 AH, the Iranian Gnostic and Philosopher, Ayatollah Sheikh Mojtaba Qazvini, passed away. He spent 40 years in teaching and writing books, besides his social activities. His books include *"Roshangar"* and the 5-volume *"Bayan al-Firq"*.

51 solar years ago, on this day in 1968 AD, France exploded a hydrogen bomb over a South Pacific testing ground and became the world's fifth thermonuclear power. The Canopus test used a 3 tonne device suspended at an altitude of 600 m from a balloon over Fangataufa Atoll, 41 km south east of Moruroa. This was France's largest nuclear device.

41 solar years ago, on this day in 1978 AD, Professor Mohammad Parvin Gonabadi, passed away at the age of 75. A student of the famous scholar, Adib Naishapuri, he took to the teaching profession, and following acquaintance with the celebrated lexicographer, Ali Akbar Dehkhoda, he joined his team in the preparation of the voluminous Persian lexicon, *"Lughatnameh"*. Among the works of Professor Gonabadi is the Persian translation of Ibn Khaldoun's *"Muqaddamah"*, and the editing of Maybodi's *"Kashf al-Asrar"* and the *"History of Bala'mi"*.

28 solar years ago, on this day in 1991 AD, Ukraine in Eastern Europe emerged independent on the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Before the Russian occupation in the 18th century the southern part of what is called Ukraine was heavily populated by Muslims, especially the Crimean Tartars, who were decimated by the Slavs or deported to other places. The Crimean Khanate was a major power for three-and-a-half centuries between 1441 and 1793, with a rich and flourishing Islamic civilization.

9 solar years ago, on this day in 2010 AD, Iran successfully test fired an upgraded version of a short-range surface-to-surface missile. The third generation of the Fateh-110, which means "conqueror" in Persian and Arabic, has an improved range of 250 km and better precision than previous models.

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

Iranian Workforce Compete at Russia's WorldSkills Kazan



TEHRAN (FNA) -- An Iranian delegation, comprised of officials and competitors, is participating at the 45th WorldSkills Competitions underway in the Russian city of Kazan.

The 45th WorldSkills Competitions kicked off on Thursday at the KAZAN EXPO International Exhibition Centre in Kazan, Russia with the participation of an Iranian delegation.

The WorldSkills Kazan 2019 Opening Ceremony took place on Thursday evening at the Kazan Arena in the capital of Tatarstan, Russia.

Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev addressed Competitors and audience in a speech delivered after the show.

This is the first time a WorldSkills Competition has been held in Russia or the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The event is at the heart of the reforms of the skills training system across all 85 regions of Russia.

Close to 1,300 competitors from 63 WorldSkills Member countries and regions will compete in

56 skills. This will be the largest international event in Russia in 2019.

WorldSkills Kazan 2019 is expected to be the largest WorldSkills Competition ever held, and takes place during four days at the Kazan Expo International Exhibition Centre. The event will run through August 27.

Iran's Deputy Labor Minister Soleyman Pakseresh is heading the Iranian delegation attending the world competition. He is scheduled to hold a meeting with his Russian counterpart to discuss bilateral cooperation on the sidelines of the event.

Iran has a very young educated, talented workforce.

First Peace & Defense Book Fair Calls for Participants

TEHRAN (IBNA) -- The 1st Peace & Defense International Book Fair scheduled to be held on September 16-22, 2019 in Tehran has issued a call for participation at the event.

The 1st Peace & Defense International Book Fair is held by Command and Staff University of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The books, authors and publish-

ers may take part in the event under the following conditions:

All books must be related to the subject of the Fair.

Books that have offended or biased religions, tribes, national and religious sanctities, and religions of countries and nations of the world will be prevented at the Fair.

Book sales are permitted while

exhibiting.

Ten percent of the total sales of each booth will go to university.

AJA University of Command and Staff, formerly named War University is the staff college of Islamic Republic of Iran's Army (Artesh), a subdivision of Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army.

It offers Masters of Military Art and Science courses to personnel of all four military branches of Iran's Army with the rank of Major and higher.

The university also provides courses for foreign officers of countries with a close relationship with Iran.

For more information visit: pdibf.ir or call 98 21 66417228.

Scorpion Toxin May Help Solve Mystery of Chronic Pain

SAN FRANCISCO (Dispatches) -- Researchers have discovered a scorpion toxin that targets the 'wasabi receptor,' a chemical-sensing protein found in nerve cells that's responsible for the sinus-jolting sting of wasabi.

The scientists at University of California San Francisco and the University of Queensland isolated the toxin, a short protein (or peptide) that they dubbed the "wasabi receptor toxin" (WaTx), from the venom of the Australian Black Rock scorpion. The discovery came as the researchers were conducting a systematic search for compounds in animal venom that could activate, and therefore be used to probe and study, the wasabi receptor -- a sensory protein officially named TRPA1 (pronounced "trip A1") that's embedded in sensory nerve endings throughout the body. When activated, TRPA1 opens to reveal a channel that allows sodium and calcium ions to flow into the cell, which can induce pain and inflammation.

Cigarette smoke and environmental pollutants, for example, are rich in reactive electrophiles which can trigger TRPA1 in the cells that line the surface of the body's airway, which can induce coughing fits and sustained airway inflammation. The receptor can also be activated

by chemicals in pungent foods like wasabi, onions, mustard, ginger and garlic -- compounds that may have evolved to discourage animals from eating these plants. WaTx appears to have evolved for the same reason.

Though many animals use venom to paralyze or kill their prey, WaTx seems to serve a purely defensive purpose. Virtually all animals, from worms to humans, have some form of TRPA1. But the researchers found that WaTx can only



activate the version found in mammals, which aren't on the menu for Black Rock scorpions, suggesting that the toxin is mainly used to ward off mammalian predators.

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Picture of the Day



Disabled Iranian woman Samaneh Ehsaninia recently held her seventh individual painting exhibition. She has painted all her beautiful and fabulous works with a brush in her mouth.

Courtesy: Honaronline