

This Day in History

(November 10)

Today is Sunday; 19th of the Iranian month of Aban 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 12th of the Islamic month of Rabi al-Awwal 1441 lunar hijri; and November 10, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1494 lunar year ago, on this day in the year 53 prior to the Hijra, (570 AD, the year Abraha, the Abyssinian governor of Yemen, was struck by divine wrath, along with his elephant-led hordes while trying to attack the holy Ka'ba), according to some accounts Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) was born in Mecca. As per the narrations of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt, he was born on the 17th of this same month. Thus, in order to bridge this 5-day gap, the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), initiated the Islamic Unity Week, which over the past three decades has fostered solidarity between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims.

1441 lunar years ago, a few days after hijrah, the first mosque in Islam was built on the instructions of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) at a village called Qoba near Yathreb (Medina), following his migration from Mecca on God's commandments on the 1st of Rabi al-Awwal. He stayed here for several days, awaiting the arrival of his dear cousin, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), who had agreed to sleep on his bed the night of Hijra so that he could migrate undetected from the assassins hovering around the abode of divine revelation. The Prophet had also instructed the Imam to return to the Meccans the things they used to keep as safe-custody with him as "**Amin**" (Trustworthy). After three days the Imam, for whose selfless risking of life on the night of Hijra God revealed to the Prophet ayah 207 of Surah Baqarah, left Mecca and a few days later arrived in Qoba, along with the ladies of the Bani Hashem clan, including his mother, Fatema bint Asad (SA), and his future wife, the Prophet's Immaculate daughter, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA). The mosque of Qoba is thus a sanctified place where it is highly recommended to perform prayers. The first public Friday Prayer was held at this place by the Prophet before he entered Medina.

1214 lunar years ago, on this day in 227 AH, Mu'tasim-Billah, the 8th self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime, died at the age of 49 after a reign of nine years, and was succeeded by his son, Watheq-Billah – born to Greek concubine Qaratis. Mu'tasim, son of the tyrant Haroun Rashid's Turkic concubine – a singing-dancing slave-girl named Marida – had taken over the caliphate on the death of his step-brother, Mamun. He favoured the Turks and gave them all authority, to the resentment of the Iranian and Arab Muslims. He opposed the Mu'tazalite doctrine of his predecessor. It was on his orders that "Ijtihad" was forbidden, and of the several jurisprudential schools of the newly designated sect called "**Ahl as-Sunnah wa'l-Jama'ah**", only four, i.e. Hanafi, Maleki, Shafai, and Hanbali, were decreed as official. Mu'tasim earned lasting damnation for martyring through poison, Imam Mohammad at-Taqi (AS), the 9th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

1200 lunar years ago, on this day in 241 AH, the jurist, Ahmad Ibn Mohammad Ibn Hanbal ash-Shaybani, passed away in his hometown Baghdad at the age of 79. He is the founder of one of the four court-sanctioned schools of Sunni jurisprudence, named after him as Hanbali. His principal work is a collection of hadith, known as "**al-Musnad**", in which he has also included hadith on the unrivalled merits of Imam Ali (AS) and the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

729 solar years ago, on this day in 1290 AD, the 7th Mamluk (slave) Sultan of Egypt and Syria, al-Mansour Saif od-Din Qalawun, died at the age of 68 after a reign of 11 years.

552 solar years ago, on this day in 1467 AD, Muzaffar od-Din Jahan Shah, the most powerful king of the Qara Qoyunlu (Black Sheep) Turkoman dynasty, was killed at the age of 70 in the Battle of Chapakchur near Lake Van in present day Turkey by the army of Uzun Hassan of the rival Aq Qoyunlu (White Sheep) dynasty of Anatolia, after a reign of almost 30 years.

536 solar years ago, on this day in 1483 AD, German religious dissident, Martin Luther, was born.

439 solar years ago, on this day in 1580 AD, after a three-day siege, the English Army brutally beheaded over 600 Papal soldiers and civilians at Dún an Óir, in Ireland.

360 solar years ago, on this day in 1659 AD, Afzal Khan, the famous general of eastern Iranian origin of the Adel-Shahi dynasty of Bijapur in the Deccan (southern India), was treacherously murdered by the Maratha rebel, Shivaji, during a supposedly unarmed meeting between the two sides for submission to the central authority and end of insurgency. The incident occurred near Pratapgarh in what is now the state of Maharashtra after a series of victories by Afzal Khan over the Marathas. Weakened by insurgency, the Adel-Shahi dynasty, a Persianate state founded by Iranian adventurer from Saveh, Yousuf Adel Khan in the closing years of the 15th century as the first kingdom in the Subcontinent to officially adopt the School of the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) or Shi'ite Islam as official creed, collapsed in 1686 when attacked by Mughal Emperor, Aurangzeb.

280 lunar years ago, on this day 1161 AH, the eminent Iranian Islamic scholar, Seyyed Ali ibn Mohammad Tabatabai was born in the holy city of Kazemain in Iraq. He authored several books, the most important of which is "**Riyaz al-Masa'el**", also known as "**Sharh-e Kabir**".

175 lunar years ago, on this day in 1266 AH, the prominent jurisprudence Fathollah bin Mohammad Namazi Gharawi, popular as Shaikh osh-Shari'ah Isfahani, was born in Isfahan in a family of scholars from Shiraz. He passed away at the age of 73 and was laid to rest in the courtyard of the holy shrine of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS).

141 lunar years ago, on this day in 1300 AH, the prominent Iranian mujtahed, Seyyed Mahdi Qazvini, passed away in Hillah, in Iraq. A product of the famous seminary of holy Najaf, he was an expert in jurisprudence, theology, exegesis of the holy Qur'an, and the "**Nahj al-Balagha**" – collection of the sermons, letters, and maxims of Imam Ali (AS). He wrote several books including "**Wada'e**" and "**Mazamir**". Under his influence, over 100,000 people in and around Hillah became followers of the school of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt.

107 solar years ago, on this day in 1912 AD, France and Spain started their colonial rule over Morocco by dividing between them this Muslim land, a move that angered the people and led to armed struggle for liberation. Morocco gained its independence from the colonial rule of France and Spain in the year 1956.

81 solar years ago, on this day in 1938 AD, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, Ottoman military officer and 1st President of the Republic of Turkey, died at the age of 57.

65 solar years ago, on this day in 1954 AD, Dr. Seyyed Hussein Fatemi, who served as foreign minister in the cabinet of Iranian prime minister, Dr. Mohammad Mosaddeq, was executed by the British-installed and US-backed Pahlavi regime. Following the US-orchestrated coup of August 19, 1953 and dismissal of Mosaddeq, he was arrested on the Shah's order.

44 solar years ago, on this day in 1975 AD, the UN General Assembly in a historic move approved Resolution 3379 equating Zionism with racism, in view of the blatant discrimination against Palestinians by the usurper state of Israel.

39 solar years ago, on this day in 1980 AD, Saddam's Ba'athist forces occupied the southwestern Iranian port of Khorramshahr after a month-and-a-half of stiff resistance by the defenders, following the unprovoked invasion of the country on September 22.

15 solar years ago, on this day in 2004 AD, Yusuf Islam (formerly Cat Stevens) was awarded the "**Man for Peace**" prize in Rome at the opening of a meeting of Nobel Peace Prize laureates. Born in London in 1948 to a Greek Cypriot father and a Swedish mother, and named Steven Demetre Georgiou, he formally converted to Islam in 1977 after studying the holy Qur'an. An accomplished musician by profession, his staunch faith in Islam has often earned him the ire of anti-Muslim groups.

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

Iran, Turkey Laureates Awarded Mustafa Prize



TEHRAN (MNA) – The laureates for the 2019 Mustafa Prize are two prominent scientists from Turkey and three scientists from Iran, according to the event's organizers.

Held biennially, the Mustafa Prize is a science and technology award, granted to top researchers and scientists of the Islamic

world.

In the field of life and medical science and technology, the Mustafa Prize was shared between Professor Ugur Sahin from Turkey, a Professor at the Mainz University Medical Center of Germany, and Dr. Ali Khadem Hosseini from Iran. Professor Sahin received the

award for his seminal work on individualized cancer immunotherapies, in particular for the development and clinical testing of mRNA-based vaccines that are tailored to each patient's mutation profile.

Three other scientists shared the prize in the newly added category "Mustafa prize laureates from Islamic countries", including Profs. Umran Inan (Turkey), a scientist at Koç University and Stanford University; Dr. Hossein Baharvand (Iran), a professor at Royan Institute, and Dr. Mohammad Abdolvahed (Iran), a faculty member at the University of Tehran.

According to the head of Mustafa Prize scientific committee, Hassan Zohour, the call for the 2019 Mustafa Prize was sent to 202 authentic academic centers and 512 scientists in 52 countries. A total of 1649 works were

assessed by the jury and 29 works were selected from 192 works. About 500 juries from 200 universities and 35 countries assessed the submitted works.

The Mustafa Prize programs will be officially initiated on November 9 and host over 100 scientists and academics from different countries.

The event will open today during a ceremony at the Alzahra University.

Meanwhile, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Sharif University of Technology, Alzahra University, Imam Sadiq University and Iran Broadcasting University (IBU), will host the 6th Science and Technology Exchange Program (STEP) meetings on November 10.

Laureates of the Mustafa Prize receive the Mustafa Medal, a Diploma and \$500,000 financed through the endowments made to the prize.

American Actor Stars in Iran, Canada Production

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- American actor/director Michael Madsen is to appear in an Iranian film.

As a joint cinematic production of Iran and Canada, 'Star Game' directed by Hatef Alimardani will have the American actor in the cast list.

Earlier reports have also announced that Farhad Aslani has joined the team as the lead role.

Alimardani is set to launch his film shoot on November and December in the U.S. and Canada.

Besides Madsen, it has been also reported that several other Hollywood actors will be cast in

the film.

Produced by Ali Sartipi, the plot summary to 'Star Game' has not been revealed yet.

Madsen's first major film role was in 'Thelma & Louise' (1991), and he is also known for working with director Quentin Tarantino in the iconic role of Mr. Blonde in 'Reservoir Dogs' (1992).

His recent film appearance was in 'Once Upon A Time in Hollywood' (2019).

Madsen has also starred in many feature films and television series, and has done voice work for video games.



American actor/director Michael Madsen.

Deep Sleep Can Rewire Anxious Brain

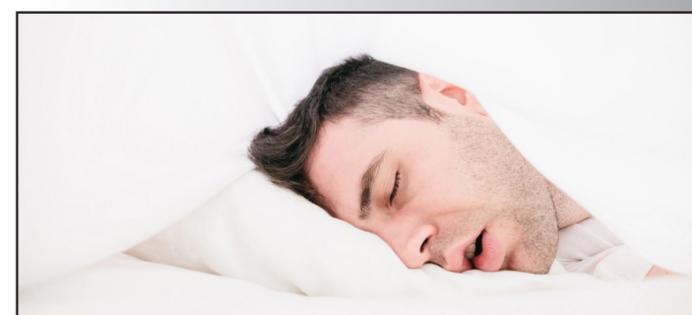
SAN FRANCISCO (Dispatches) -- The type of sleep most apt to calm and reset the anxious brain is deep sleep, also known as non-rapid eye movement (NREM) slow-wave sleep, a state in which neural oscillations become highly synchronized, and heart rates and blood pressure drop, according to new research from the University of California, Berkeley.

The findings provide one of the strongest neural links between sleep and anxiety to date. They also point to sleep as a natural, non-pharmaceutical remedy for anxiety disorders, which have been diagnosed in some 40 million American adults and are rising among children and teens.

In a series of experiments using functional MRI and polysomnography, among other measures, researchers scanned the brains of 18 young adults as they viewed emotionally stirring video clips after a full night of sleep, and again after a sleepless night. Anxiety levels were measured following each session via a questionnaire

known as the state-trait anxiety inventory.

After a night of no sleep, brain scans showed a shutdown of the medial prefrontal cortex, which normally helps keep our anxiety in check, while the brain's deeper emotional centers were overactive.



Picture of the Day



Local farmers in the town of Shahreza in Isfahan province, central Iran, have started harvesting pomegranate. Courtesy: Young Journalists Club