

# This Day in History

(November 20)

Today is Wednesday; 29<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Aban 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 22<sup>nd</sup> of the Islamic month of Rabi al-Awwal 1441 lunar hijri; and November 20, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1735 solar years ago**, on this day in 284 AD, Diocletian was proclaimed Roman Emperor by his soldiers in Asia Minor on the sudden and suspicious death of Numerian, the son and successor of Emperor Carus, who days earlier had died of wounds in Mesopotamia during the war against Emperor Bahram of the Sassanid Persian Empire. Of low birth and a hardcore pagan, he was cruel and crafty by nature, and during his 27-year rule, earned notoriety for his massacre of tens of thousands of monotheist followers of Prophet Jesus as well as members of the creed called Christianity.

**1437 lunar years ago**, on this day in 4 AH, the Muslims started the campaign against the Israelite tribe of Bani Nadheer around Medina by besieging their forts when the Jews, in alliance with the Arab infidels and hypocrites, refused to leave, despite their breach of the covenant of Medina for peaceful co-existence. They had incited Meccan polytheists to attack Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), in addition to their own attempts on his life. God Almighty revealed the ayahs of Surah Hashr, allowing the Prophet to take action. The Prophet entrusted the standard to his cousin and vicegerent, Imam Ali (AS), to launch the campaign. In a few days, the rebellious Israelites sued for peace, and were allowed to leave on 600 camels along with their women, children, livestock and riches. Some settled in Khaybar while others left for Syria. Centuries earlier, Israelite tribes had migrated to Hijaz from Palestine to await the advent among the Arabs of the Last and Greatest Messenger foretold by God in the Torah and other heavenly scriptures. But when Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) proclaimed his mission, the Israelites denied him, even though they recognized him as the one prophesied by Moses and other prophets. The Prophet, as per divine commandment, offered peace and truce to the Jews, as the People of the Book, but despite their pledges the Israelites never kept their words and always plotted against Islam and the Prophet.

**1357 solar years ago**, on this day in 762 AD, Khaqan Bogu Khan of the Uyghur Turks, conquered Lo-Yang, capital of the Chinese Empire. During his reign the Uyghur Khaqanate reached the height of its power. Bogu met with Manichaeans from Iran while on campaign and was converted to this creed, adopting it as the official religion of the Uyghur Empire in 763. One effect of this conversion was the increased influence of Iranian Sogdians in the Uyghur court. The Uyghur Turks created a highly civilised empire with clear Iranian influences, especially in administrative areas. A century-and-a-half later in 934, Satuq Bughra Khan converted to Islam under influence of Iranian Muslim missionaries, and made Kashghar his capital. Today Uyghur Muslims are concentrated in what is now Xinjiang Province of China.

**1052 solar years ago**, on this day in 967 AD, Abu'l-Faraj Isfahani, the famous master of Arabic prose, historian, sociologist, poet, and musicologist, passed away in Baghdad at the age of 71. He is best known for his encyclopedic 25-volume work "*Kitab al-Aghani*" that took him fifty years to compile, and which contains valuable information on poets, poetry, philology, rhythms, instruments, Arabic literature and genealogy, from the ancient times till his own days. He was a follower of the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (blessings of God upon him and his progeny). He wrote the valuable work "*Maqatel al-Talibiyen*", comprising short biographies of the descendants of Imam Ali (AS) martyred by the Omayyad and Abbasid caliphs till the year 313 AH.

**825 solar years ago**, on this day in 1194 AD, Palermo, the capital of Sicily was conquered by Emperor Henry VI of the German Hohenstaufen dynasty, who styled himself as Holy Roman Emperor. He expelled tens of thousands of Muslims and turned mosques in Sicily into churches.

**705 lunar years ago**, on this day in 736 AH, the great scholar and founder of the Sarbadaran Movement, Shaikh Khalifa Mazandarani, was martyred in Sabzevar, Khorasan. Born in Amol in Mazandaran near the Caspian Sea, after mastering various branches of Islamic sciences, he came to Khorasan where in Sabzevar he launched the Sarbadar Movement against the repressive rule of the Ilkhanid Mongols, especially the local governor Togha Timur, who was notorious for his cruelty and high taxation of the people. The movement, which was mostly made up of the downtrodden, spread to neighboring cities. Its charismatic leaders included Shaikh Khalifa's successor, Hassan Juri, and later Ali Mu'ayyad, all of whom revived the teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

**324 solar years ago**, on this day in 1695 AD, Zumbi dos Palmares, the last of the kings of Angola Janga (Little Angola), a state established in Brazil by African people who had liberated themselves from enslavement, was killed and decapitated by the Portuguese at the age of 40, thus ending the 90-year long independence of the African kingdom in what is now Brazil's Alagoas state.

**269 solar years ago**, on this day in 1750 AD, the Muslim king of Mysore, Fath Ali Khan, known as Tipu Sultan, was born in Devanahalli, near Bangalore in southern India.

**109 solar years ago**, on this day in 1910 AD, Russian Author, Leo Tolstoy, died at the age of 82. He has left behind numerous books, including the two famous masterpieces, titled "*War and Peace*"; and "*Anna Karenina*".

**99 solar years ago**, on this day in 1920 AD, the uprising of Iraq's long-oppressed Shi'a Muslim majority was crushed, and this time by the new colonial rulers, the British, who had replaced the Ottoman Turks in Mesopotamia, following the end of World War I.

**84 solar years ago**, on this day in 1935 AD, prominent Iranian politician and prime minister of the Qajar era, Hassan Pirnia, died at the age of 63 in Tehran. He held a total of twenty-four posts during his political career, serving four times as Prime Minister of Iran to Ahmad Shah Qajar. Following the seizure of power by Reza Khan Pahlavi, he retired from public life and published a three-volume history of pre-Islamic Iran, entitled "*Tarikh-e Iran-e Bastan*". An abridged version of the same titled "*Tarikh-e Mukhtasar Iran-e Qadeem*", published in 1928, became a standard textbook for students.

**84 solar years ago**, on this day in 1935 AD, the Muslim revolutionary, Sheikh Mohammad Izz od-Din al-Qassam, attained martyrdom near Haifa in Palestine at the age of 53.

**69 solar years ago**, on this day in 1950 AD, the US and China almost went to direct war with each other in the Korean Peninsula, because of their support for the southern and northern parts of that divided land respectively. UN mediation averted the war, but due to American intransigence, Korea remains divided at the 38th Parallel.

**59 solar years ago**, on this day in 1960 AD, the plan for establishment of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) was ratified in Stockholm, Sweden. The members of this Association were Austria, Finland, Norway, and Sweden which despite being geographically located in west Europe, did not want to join the European common market.

**35 solar years ago**, on this day in 1984 AD, the famous Urdu poet of the subcontinent, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, passed away in Lahore, Pakistan, at the age of 73. He was born in Karachi in undivided India and was named Faiz Ahmad Farooq. He was also politically active both before and after the founding of Pakistan. He opposed the dictatorial rule of General Zia ul-Haq and was imprisoned and exiled for his views, which he expressed through poetry and novels. Among his important works are "*Naqsh-e Faryadi*", "*Dast-e Saba*", and "*Zindan-Namah*".

**30 solar years ago**, on this day in 1989 AD, stone relief, dating back 5,000 years, was discovered in the vicinity of the western Iranian city of Hamedan. Ruins of town along with skeletons, and primitive tools of the 2nd and 3rd millennium BC were unearthed. The region was called Hegmataneh in ancient times, which the Greek invaders corrupted to Ekbatan.

**30 solar years ago**, on this day in 1989 AD, on the 30th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Children's Rights, the UN General Assembly passed the Convention on Rights of the Child, signed by 140 countries. This day was thus designated as Day of Children's Rights. Presently 194 countries have officially ratified the Universal Declaration of Children's Rights, except for a handful of countries, including the US, which although a signatory has refused to ratify it.

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

# Company Produces Raw Material For Anticancer Drugs



TEHRAN (MNA) – For the first time in the country, a knowledge-based company managed to produce nano calcium carbonate (CaCO3) on industrial scale. This material has many applications such as in producing anticancer drugs.

Chief Executive of this knowledge-based company, Razeghi Khosravieh has said that "nano calcium carbonate is a highly-used nanoparticle in the world which is used in various fields such as making semi-transparent polymers transparent, and enhancing physical and mechanical properties of different types of tires and plastics."

In addition, nano CaCO3 is applied in medical industries as the raw material for artificial prosthesis, anticancer drugs, etc.

It is for the first time that this material has been produced in industrial scale by the domestic experts of this knowledge-based company in the Middle East region, he added.

Turning to the export of this knowledge-based product, Khosravieh stated, "Presently, we have focused on familiarizing domestic companies with the properties of this product. After obtaining international standards these materials will be exported to European countries."

Powder of nano calcium carbonate is imported into the country from countries such as China, Austria and Spain, he stressed.

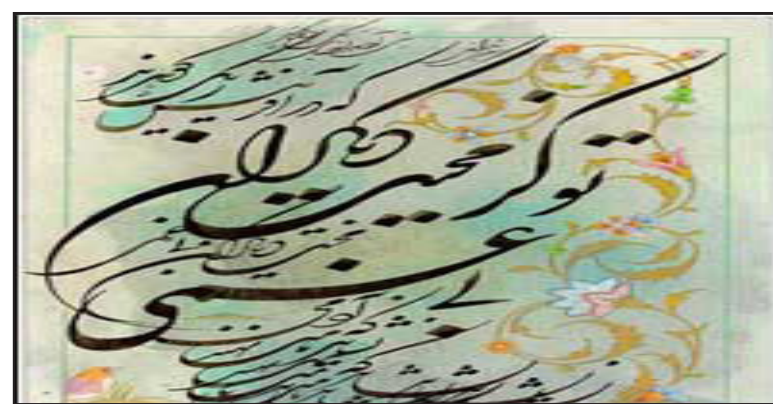
All stages for the production of this material, ranging from designing, simulating to manufacturing relevant equipment, have been carried out by the experts of this company, he emphasized.

# Bishkek Holds Night of Persian Poetry

TEHRAN (IBNA) -- The ceremony of Night of Persian Poetry was held in Bishkek State University by Iran's Cultural Attaché to Kirgizstan.

The event was held in cooperation with Sa'di Foundation in Iran on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Bishkek State University.

The program was attended by Iranian officials, Iranologists,



Kyrgyz university professors, Persian language students and those interested in Iranian culture.

The 3-hour event, Night of Persian Poetry which took place was from the series of weekly programs on Persian language and literature came to an end with honoring the activists of Persian language and literature who were awarded by Sa'di Foundation.

# Inflammation Linked to Mental Sluggishness

LONDON (Dispatches) – Scientists at the University of Birmingham in collaboration with the University of Amsterdam have uncovered a possible explanation for the mental sluggishness that often accompanies illness.

An estimated 12M UK citizens have a chronic medical condition, and many of them report severe mental fatigue that they characterize as 'sluggishness' or 'brain fog'. This condition is often as debilitating as the disease itself.

A team in the University's Centre for Human Brain Health investigated the link between this mental fog and inflammation -- the body's response to illness. In a study published in Neuroimage, they show that inflammation appears to have a particular negative impact on the brain's readiness to reach and maintain an alert state.

Dr Ali Mazaheri and Professor Jane Raymond of the University's Centre for Human Brain Health are the senior authors of the study. Dr Mazaheri says: "Scientists have long suspected a link between inflammation and cognition, but it is very difficult to be clear about the cause and effect. For example, people living with a medical condition or being very overweight might complain of cognitive impairment, but it's hard to tell if that's due to the inflammation associated with these conditions or if there are other reasons."

"Our research has identified a specific critical process within the brain that is clearly affected

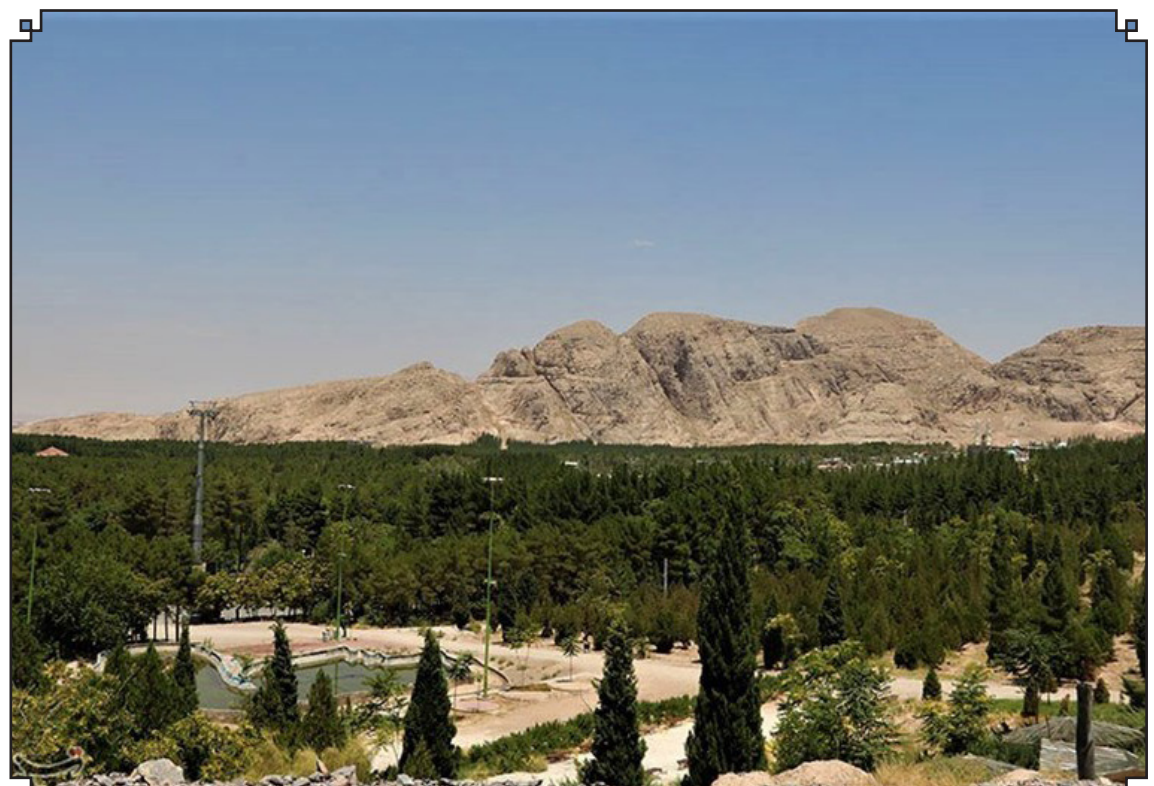
when inflammation is present."

The study focused specifically on an area of the brain which is responsible for visual attention. A group of 20 young male volunteers took part and received a salmonella typhoid vaccine that causes temporary inflammation but has few other side effects.

The results showed that inflammation specifically affected brain activity related to staying alert, while the other attention processes appeared unaffected by inflammation.



# Picture of the Day



The Qaem Pardisan Forest that is located near the Sahbalzaman Mountains is the largest jungle park in Kerman and Iran. Courtesy of Tasnim News Agency