

This Day in History

(February 24)

Today is Wednesday; 6th of the Iranian month of Esfand 1399 solar hijri; corresponding to 12th of the Islamic month of Rajab 1442 lunar hijri; and February 24, 2021, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1410 lunar years ago, on this day in 32 AH, Abbas ibn Abdul-Muttaleb, the paternal uncle of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), passed away in Medina at al-most 90 years of age and was laid to rest in the sacred Baqie Cemetery by his worthy son, Abdullah, the hadith narrator and exegete of the holy Qur'an, who was a disciple of Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS). Abbas, who had become a rich merchant in the days of ignorance, did not openly profess Islam in Mecca, but it is said that he stood beside his nephew when a group from Medina came to the Prophet for the secret allegiance of Aqaba. He was forced by the pagan Arabs to accompany them to the Battle of Badr in which he was captured by the Muslims and allowed to ransom himself and return to Mecca. Shortly before the peaceful takeover of Mecca by the Prophet, he disassociated from the Meccans and submitted to the Muslims, some twenty year after his wife, "Omm al-Fazl Lubaba bint al-Hareth had accepted Islam, claiming to be second woman to do so. Thereafter he accompanied the Prophet, like other members of the Hashemite clan in various endeavours. Abbas knew that after the passing away of the Prophet, his other nephew, Imam Ali (AS), was the divinely-decreed leader of mankind as was evident by the historic declaration at Ghadeer-Khom. Unfortunately, some of his descendants in blind pursuit of the material world, turned away from the truth, usurped political power by deceiving the Muslims, wrongly called themselves caliphs, and indulged in the persecution of the Prophet's progeny, to the extent that six of the Imams of the Ahl al-Bayt were martyred through poisoning by the Abbasids.

1236 lunar years ago, on this day in 206 AH, the narrator of hadith and historical events, Abu Hudhayfa, passed away. Among his important compilations, mention could be made of "*al-Mubtada*" on the creation of mankind and the biography of prophets. He has also narrated from Imam Ja'far Sadeq (AS), the account of Prophet Mohammad's Me'raj or ascension to the ethereal heavens and back in a fraction of the night.

863 lunar years ago, on this day in 479AH, Spanish Muslims led by Yusuf bin Tashfin defeated Spanish Christians under command of Alphonse VI in the glorious battle of "*az-Zalqa*". This decisive battle halted for over two-and-a-half centuries the bid by the Christian powers to drive out Spanish Muslim from the Iberian Peninsula.

718 solar years ago, on this day in 1303 AD, the Battle of Roslin took place during the First War of Scottish Independence – lasting from the invasion by England in 1296 until the de jure restoration of Scottish independence with the Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton in 1328 (de facto independence was established in 1314 at the Battle of Bannockburn).

717 solar years ago, on this day in 1304 AD, the renowned Muslim worldwide traveler, Shams od-Din Mohammad bin Abdullah, known as Ibn Battuta, was born in the northwest African city of Tangiers – in today's Morocco. He dictated to scribes the details of his travels in his book titled "*ar-Rehla*", and died at the age of 66.

282 solar years ago, on this day in 1739 AD, the historic Battle of Karnaal was fought near a village of the same name, some 110 km north of Delhi, between the Iranian army of Nader Shah Afshar and the army of the Indian Mughal ruler, Mohammad Shah, known as "Rangeeleh" or colourful, because of his patronizing of singers and dancers, at the expense of negligence of state affairs. The Iranians won a decisive victory losing only 2500 soldiers, while the death toll of the Indian army was over 20,000.

232 lunar years ago, on this day in 1209 AH, Loff Ali Khan, the last ruler of the Zand Dynasty of Iran, died under torture in prison in Tehran at the age of 25, three years after he was captured through deceit and bribing of the governor of Bam by Agha Mohammad Khan the founder of the Qajarid Dynasty. He was buried in the mausoleum of the Prophet's descendant, Imamzadah Zaid, near the Tehran Grand Bazaar.

214 lunar years ago, on this day in 1227 AH, the prominent jurisprudent, Shaikh Ja'far bin Khizr al-Hilli an-Najafi, popular as Kashef al-Gheta, an epithet by which his progeny of scholars became well-known, passed away at the age of 73. He wrote several books and groomed many scholars, including the famous jurisprudent, Shaikh Mohammad Hasan Najafi, the author of "*Jawaher al-Kalaam*".

190 solar years ago, on this day in 1831 AD, the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, went into effect, as part of the US policy of ethnic cleansing of native Amerindians in Mississippi. It resulted in the seizure of 11 million acres of the lands of the Choctaw by White settlers of European origin. It was the first treaty in accordance with the Indian Removal Act passed by the Congress. The US is notorious for ethnic discrimination, genocide, wars and massacres.

165 solar years ago, on this day in 1856 AD, Russian mathematician, Nikolay Ivanovich Lobachevsky, died at the age of 64. He conducted extensive research on the features of spherical surfaces and presented important theories.

131 lunar years ago, on this day in 1110 AH, Omani sailors who dominated Zanzibar and the eastern coast of Africa defeated the Portuguese in the sea Battle of Mombasa, off the coast of what is now Kenya.

124 solar years ago, on this day in 1897 AD, Henri Frankfort, the Dutch-American archaeologist who established the relationship between Egypt and Mesopotamia, was born. He completed a documented reconstruction of ancient Mesopotamian culture and art. He directed excavations in Egypt (1922, 1925-29) and Iraq (1929-37) with exemplary scholarship.

88 solar years ago, on this day in 1933 AD, East African academic and political scientist, Professor Ali Mazrui, was born in Mombasa, Kenya. Mazrui wrote several books, including on his native Swahili language and culture.

72 solar years ago, on this day in 1949 AD, a ceasefire came into effect between Egypt and the illegal Zionist entity following the signing of an agreement on Rhode Island. In May 1948, while withdrawing from Palestine, the British colonialists, who had illegally settled hundreds of thousands of European Jews in this Islamic land between the two world wars, created an artificial entity called Israel. The Zionists immediately lounged expansionism in different directions after expelling over 400,000 Palestinians. The Zionists attacked Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, occupying parts of the three countries. According to this treaty, Gaza was placed under Egyptian protection, but in later wars it was occupied by Israel.

63 solar years ago, on this day in 1968 AD, the discovery of a pulsar (a pulsating radio source) was announced. The first pulsar was discovered by a graduate student, Jocelyn Bell, on 28 Nov 1967.

37 solar years ago, on this day in 1984 AD, the western Iranian cities of Koh Dasht, Pol-e Dokhtar, Saqqez, Mahabad, Khorramabad and Boroujerd were savagely bombed by the air force of the US-backed repressive Ba'th minority regime of Saddam, resulting in the martyrdom of over 50 civilians and injuries to 400 others, besides the destruction of the cities' infrastructure. The bombardment followed the defeat of the Ba'thist forces during the Khaibar Operations in the Majnoon Islands sector. The UN and world countries not just silently watched this aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran, but actively supported Saddam and his war machine.

37 solar years ago, on this day in 1984 AD, the brave Iranian commander, Hamid Bakri, who played a crucial role in the victory of the Muslim combatants of Iran against the invading Ba'thist forces, achieved martyrdom on the war fronts.

12 solar years ago, on this day in 2009 AD, Iranian and Russian technicians conducted a test run of Iran's first nuclear power plant near Bushehr on the Persian Gulf – a major step toward launching full operations at the facility. Iran, as a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), has peaceful nuclear programme under supervision of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Iranians Observe Day of Nasir al-Din Tusi



Outstanding Iranian philosopher, scientist, and mathematician Nasir al-Din Tusi.

TEHRAN (MNA) – February 23rd is the National Commemoration Day of the outstanding Iranian philosopher, scientist, and mathematician Nasir al-Din Tusi.

Tusi was born in Tus in 1201 and died in Baghdad in 1274. Very little is known about his childhood and early education, apart from what he writes in his autobiography, Contemplation and Action (Sayr wa suluk).

As a young boy, Nasir al-Din was encouraged by his father to study all "the branches of knowledge and to listen to the opinions of the followers of various sects and doctrines"; as such, Tusi

travelled widely to study with teachers of his choice.

Tusi studied mathematics with Kamal al-Diin Hasib about whom we have no authentic knowledge. In Nishabur he met Farid al-Din 'Attar, the legendary Sufi master who was later killed in the hand of Mongol invaders and attended the lectures of Qutb al-Din Misri and Farid al-Din Damad. In Mawsil he studied mathematics and astronomy with Kamal al-Din Yunus (d. 1242).

At the age of twenty-two or a while later, Tusi joined the court of Nasir al-Din Muhtashim, the Ismaili governor of Quhistan,

Northeast Iran, where he was accepted into the Ismaili community as a novice.

A sign of close personal relationship with Muhtashim's family is to be seen in the dedication of a number of his scholarly works such as Akhlaq-i Nasiri and Akhlaq-i Muhtashimi to Nasir al-Din himself and Risala-yi Mu'iniyya to his son Mu'in al-Din.

Around 1236, he was in Alamut, the centre of Nizari Ismaili government. In Alamut, apart from teaching, editing, dictating and compiling scholarly works, Tusi climbed the ranks of the Is-

maili da'wat ascending to the position of chief missionary.

Through constant visits with scholars and tireless correspondence, Tusi kept his contact with the academic world outside Ismaili circles and was addressed as 'the scholar' from a very early period in his life.

The Mongol invasion and the turmoil it caused in the eastern Islamic territories hardly left the life of any of its citizens untouched. With the fall of Alamut in 1256 CE, Tusi became an advisor to the Mongol ruler Hulegu and was later made a wazir and placed in charge of waqf (religious endowments).

Among the major events of Tusi's sojourn with the Mongols was the building of an observatory in Azerbaijan at Maragha under his direction, where the most renowned scientists of the time, including astronomers from China, participated in research and scientific observations. In 1274 CE, Tusi left Maragha with a group of his students for Baghdad, where he died in the same year.

The 5th day of Esfand, the twelfth month on the Iranian calendar, which fell on February 23 this year, has been designated as Engineer's Day in Iran to commemorate Nasir al-Din Tusi, the most celebrated scholar of the 13th century.

Qatar Screens Joint Production With Iran

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iranian-Qatari feature film 'Killer Whale' is selected to screen at the Qumra event in Qatar.

Sahar Mosayyebi's movie is among the 48 films selected to be screened at this year's Qumra event, which is powered by the Doha Film Institute.

The film, that counts as Mosayyebi's first feature film, has Taraneh Alidousti and Mahtab Keramati, Masoud Keramati and Mahtab Nassirpour star in it.

Mohammad Reshno, Hassan Zarei, Sepideh Alaei, Armik Qaribian, Fatemeh Neishabouri and Hamideh Hamidi are also among the cast members of the flick.

A brief tagline for the film reads, "You girl are a killer whale... because you fight so much so that you'll gain what you wish for".

Being an event that provides mentorship, nurturing and hands-on development for filmmakers, Qumra invites prominent cineaste to hold master classes.

This year's event which will hold on March 12-17 online will have Claire Denis (French filmmaker), James Gray (American director), Jessica Hausner (Austrian film director), Mark Mangini (American sound editor) and Phedon Papamichael (Greek cinematographer) as its guest presenters.

Sleep Vital to Associating Emotion With Memory

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- University of Michigan research suggests that groups of neurons activated during prior learning keep humming, tattooing memories into your brain.

The researchers have been studying how memories associated with a specific sensory event are formed and stored in mice. They examined how a fearful memory formed in relation to a specific visual stimulus.

They found that not only did the neurons activated by the visual stimulus keep more active during subsequent sleep, sleep is vital to their ability to connect the fear memory to the sensory event.



The researchers found that when they disrupted sleep after they showed the subjects an image and had given them a mild foot shock, there was no fear

associated with the visual stimulus. Those with unmanipulated sleep learned to fear the specific visual stimulus that had been paired with the foot shock.

Picture of the Day



The closing ceremony of the 36th Fajr Music Festival came to an end by honoring winners at Vahdat Hall. Courtesy of Honaronline