

This Day in History

(14-1-1400)

Today is Saturday; 14th of the Iranian month of Farvardin 1400 solar hijri; corresponding to 20th of the Islamic month of Sha’ban 1442 lunar hijri; and April 3, 2021, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1057 lunar years ago, on this day in 385 AH, famous Islamic historian and bibliographer, Mohammad Ibn Is’haq Ibn an-Nadeem, passed away. He was a follower of the Prophet’s Ahl al-Bayt and the author of the famous encyclopedic work “*al-Fehrist*”.

696 solar years ago, on this day in 1325 AD, the second most prominent mystic of India, Seyyed Nizam od-Din Awliya, passed away at the age of 87 in Delhi, where his tomb is a site of pilgrimage. He traced his descent to Imam Ali an-Naqi al-Hadi (AS), the 10th Infallible Successor of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), and belonged to the Cheshti Sufi order founded in the Subcontinent by the Iranian saint of Ajmer, Seyyed Moin od-Din Cheshti, who is famous for his tribute in Persian poetry to the Chief of Martyrs, Imam Husain (AS). Nizam od-Din wrote several books including the spiritual treatise “*Fawa’ed ol-Fu’aad*” in Persian and trained many disciples such as the great Persian poet of the Subcontinent, Amir Khosrow Dehlavi. Nizam od-Din Awliya’s criticism of the eccentric policies of Sultan Mohammad Tughlaq had enraged the king and made him issue threats of punishment after returning to Delhi, at which the mystic smiled and calmly said in Persian “*Hanouz Dilli dour ast*” (Delhi is still far). The Sultan died on his way.

590 lunar years ago, on this day in 852 AH, Ottoman Sultan Murad II decisively defeated a united European Christian Crusader army of 100,000 soldiers in the Second Battle of Kosovo, led by the king of Hungary, after three days of fierce fighting.

341 solar years ago, on this day in 1680 AD, Shivaji, the Maratha guerilla chieftain of the Bhosle clan who carved out a kingdom in western India, died at the age of 50. His father was Shahji, a general in the service of the Adel-Shahi and Nizam-Shahi Persianate dynasties of the Deccan, who was named “Shah” by his father Maloji in honour of the Muslim mystic “Shah Sharif” of Ahmadnagar, whose prayers had granted him two sons – the second was named Sharifji. Shivaji was not on good terms with his own father, and unlike him, rebelled against the Adel-Shahi sultanate of Bijapur, whose famous general of eastern Iranian origin, Afzal Khan, he deceitfully slew at Pratapgarh in 1659 during a supposedly unarmed meeting between the two sides for submission to the central authority and end of insurgency. An expert in guerilla warfare, Shivaji was invited to Agra by Moghal Emperor Aurangzeb and according to protocol, restrictions were placed on his movements from the mansion where he was lodged. On learning that Aurangzeb was planning to send him and his guerilla forces to the northwestern frontier for the campaign to retake Qandahar – in what is now Afghanistan – from the Safavid Empire of Iran, Shivaji became fearful and fled south without notice. Back in the Deccan, by 1674 he carved out an independent enclave from the declining sultanate of Bijapur and chose Raigarh as his capital, which was his base for raiding the territories of the Qutb-Shahis, the Adel-Shahis and the powerful Moghal Empire that brought retaliation from Aurangzeb. In the areas under his control, he replaced the Persian language with his mother-tongue Marathi for official use. In the next century, the Marathas expanded their power in the north as far as Delhi, Punjab and the borders of Kashmir, bringing them into direct confrontation with the Afghans. Their pillaging and looting had alienated the Sikhs, the Jats, and even fellow Hindu Rajputs, enabling Ahmad Shah Durrani to inflict a crushing defeat on them at the Battle of Panipat in 1761 from which the Marathas never recovered, and were gradually absorbed by the British.

155 lunar years ago, on this day in 1287 AH, the great scholar, Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Najafi Isfahani, known as Masjid-Shahi, was born in the holy city of Najaf in Iraq. Ayatollah Masjid-Shahi, who authored some 34 books, was among the teachers who authorized Imam Khomeini to relate hadith as the latter has mentioned in his book “*Arba’een*” (Collection of Forty Hadith). Among Ayatollah Masjid-Shahi’s books is “*Wiqayat al-Adhan*”, “*Naqd-e Falsafa-e Darwin*” and “*Amjadiyyah*”. He was also an expert in Arabic literature, and a poet himself. He was laid to rest in the Takht-e Fulad Cemetery of Isfahan.

131 solar years ago, on this day in the year 1890 AD, Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, was dismissed by the German Emperor, Wilhelm II, following disputes between the two, despite his efforts to unite Germany as a nation state in 1871. After his dismissal he started writing his political testament, in which he highly criticized the German emperor. Bismarck died in 1898.

109 lunar years ago, on this day in 1333 AH, Ayatollah Mullah Mohammad Akhund Kashi, passed away at the age of 84 in Isfahan. A student of famous scholars such as Aqa Mohammad Reza Qomshe’i, Mullah Hassan Nouri, and Mullah Abdul-Jawad Khorasani, he became a prominent teacher and promoter of the philosophy of Mullah Sadra Shirazi. In addition to philosophy, he mastered mathematics, astronomy, jurisprudence, and Gnosis, and is reported to have displayed “*karamaat*” or supernatural abilities. He groomed several students he became outstanding ulema, such Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Abu’l-Hassan Isfahani, Ayatollah Seyyed Hassan Modarres, and Haj Aqa Rahim Arbab.

92 solar years ago, on this day in 1929 AD, Renowned Muslim architect, Fazl ur-Rahman Khan, who initiated important structural systems for skyscrapers and is considered the “father of tubular designs for high-rises”, was born in Dhaka in what is now the capital of Bangladesh.

80 solar years ago, on this day in 1941 AD, during the struggles of the Iraqi people against the British regime and its puppet monarchy, Baghdad was taken over in a coup by two-times nationalist prime minister, Rashid Aali Gilani, who resented London’s plot to involve in the Second World War. The British forces brutally suppressed the uprising. Gilani, who came from a distinguished Sunni Muslim Iraqi family of Iranian origin, sought refuge in Iran. However, on 25 August 1941, the armed forces of Britain and the Soviet Union invaded Iran to remove Reza Khan Pahlavi from power and install on the Peacock Throne his 21-year old son, Mohammad Reza as the new puppet. Gilani, sensing danger, left for Berlin, where he was recognized as the leader of the Iraqi government in exile. Upon the defeat of Germany, he again fled and found refuge, this time in Saudi Arabia. Gilani only returned from exile after the revolution that overthrew the Iraqi monarchy in 1958. Once again he attempted to seize power, and plotted a revolt against Colonel Abdul Karim Qassem’s government. The revolt was foiled and he was sentenced to death. Later pardoned, he went into exile in Beirut, Lebanon, where he died in 1965.

21 solar years ago, on this day in 2000 AD, the prominent Iranian researcher and cartographer, Abbas Sehaab, passed away in Tehran at the age of 79. He authored the book “*Art of Calligraphy from Earliest Times till Today*”, as part of the UNESCO project for its Atlas of the History of Islamic Arts.

19 solar years ago, on this day in the year 2002, the Zionist army brutally attacked the city of Jenin as part of the campaign to terrorize Palestinians in the West Bank in a bid to end the Second Intefadha. Nearly 200 tanks, dozens of choppers, and 10,000 troops participated in the aggression, pounding Jenin continuously. Despite the power cut, severance of water supplies, and obstruction of relief aid, the Palestinian people and combatants resisted for nine days. Israel brutally suppressed and massacred hundreds of men, women and children; demolished their homes and hearths, hospitals, and the infrastructure; to the extent that 70% of the city was flattened and 5,000 Palestinians were made homeless.

19 solar years ago, on this day in 2002 AD, renowned Iranian mathematician Professor Ahmad Birashk passed away in his hometown Tehran at the age of 96. Known as “*Father of Mathematics*” in Iran, Professor Ahmad Birashk is known for his encyclopedic work titled “*A Comparative Calendar of the Iranian, Muslim Lunar, and Christian Eras for Three-Thousand Years*”. This is a manual of the three major calendars in use in Iran: the Islamic lunar hijri calendar, the Iranian solar hijri calendar, and the Western Gregorian calendar. This book includes tables for the conversions of dates among these three calendars from 639 BC to 2621 AD.

Iranians Mark Nature Day at Home Under COVID Restrictions



This year, Iranians marked nature day at home to stem the rise in under coronavirus cases.

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – As the government has imposed a ban on outdoor get-togethers, people of Iran are celebrating this year’s

Sizdah-Bedar at home in compliance with the coronavirus restrictions.

Every year on the 13th day of spring, which is an official holiday in Iran known as the Nature Day, Iranian families go on a picnic at parks or in the countryside in celebration of the ancient festival.

‘Sizdah’ means thirteen, and ‘Bedar’ means to get rid of, bearing the meaning of ‘getting rid of thirteen’. Sizdah-bedar also marks the end of Nowruz celebrations, which begin on the first day of spring.

While Iranians have always upheld the time-honored tradition

on the thirteenth day of Nowruz by spending the day outdoors, the global coronavirus pandemic has forced people to stay home this year and observe self-isolation protocols in the fight against the viral disease.

To prevent the spread of coronavirus, authorities have closed all parks and public places in Iran on April 2 and have imposed severe penalties for picnicking.

Iran’s Health Ministry said on Thursday that the total number of coronavirus cases in the country has exceeded 1,897,000 and the death toll has reached 62,759.

Leader’s House Adorned With Persian Zilou

TEHRAN (Ifilm) – Zilou carpets (traditional hand-woven floor-covering), which have covered the house of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, are adorned with motifs called “Zolfak”.

Zilou weavers in Meybod say that since Zilou carpets with Zolfak motifs have covered the house of the Leader, those who order the Zilou carpets say, “We want the Zilou of the House of the Leader.”

Zilou looks like a simple cotton rug. A study of its weaving techniques, engravings and inscriptions shows that there is a rich culture behind every weft. The simplicity and sincerity match the architecture and the spirit of the people in this area.

The Zilous are made in local workshops with patterns woven on them being simple geometric shapes, especially the Zilous that have covered the House of the Leader and the Jamaran Hosseinih (a place for seasonal Islamic rituals). These Zilou carpets, which are the work of Meybodi artists, are a symbol of millennia-long Persian art and culture;



Zilou looks like a simple cotton rug. The reason why Zilou is used in Jamaran Hosseinih or the House of the Leader is because of Zilou’s simplicity and sincerity.

and they have now found an opportunity to be seen.

A large warehouse in the heart of Meybod is where Zilou weaving machines bring art on fabric. The old craftsmen still chase Zilou weaving with their hunched backs and shaky legs. They are the last generation of traditional Zilou weavers who weave patterns with no scheme on all-white carpet looms.

The manufactory is filled with the sound of spinning machines

and hands that do not stop for a moment.

According to Abdul Karim Ghanipour, the 62-year-old head of the Zilou weaving cooperative, each Zilou weavers has to walk between 8 and 10 kilometers a day to weave the carpet.

Ghanipour, who, like most of the locals, has been weaving Zilou since the very young age, believes warping loom is the most difficult stage in Zilou weaving. He says, “Zilou is com-

3,000-Year-Old Ruins Discovered in China’s Shaanxi

XI’AN (Xinhua) – Chinese archaeologists have discovered a collection of large-scale ruins dating to the Western Zhou Dynasty (1046-771 BC) in Xi’an, capital of northwest China’s Shaanxi Province.

Deduced from a sacrifice-related animal bone pit unearthed at the site, experts said imperial ancestral temples in the period could be found in the nearby areas.

The site was found in the ruins of Haojing, the capital city of the Western Zhou Dynasty. Archaeologists have been excavating the building complex since 2019, according to the Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology.

In the animal bone pit, skulls of animals including cattle, sheep and pigs were found, which were used in sacrificial ceremonies in the Western Zhou Dynasty.

Deer skulls were also excavated, likely an additional type of sacrificial offering, said Yue Lianjian, a researcher with the academy, adding that ancestral temple sites from that period could be found in nearby areas. The discovery will help

reveal the functional division of the capital city and architectural sites in the

Western Zhou Dynasty. In recent years, researchers have found many relic sites

including building clusters and tombs in the ruins of Haojing.

Picture of the Day



With more than 40 salt mines, Garmsar City in north central Iran is home to the largest salt mines in West Asia, holding the great share of salt extraction in the country.

Courtesy: Tasnim News