

This Day in History

(June 1)

Today is Monday; 11th of the Iranian month of Khordad 1394 solar hijri; corresponding to 13th of the Islamic month of Sha'ban 1436 lunar hijri; and June 1, 2015, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

969 lunar years ago, on this day in 467 AH, the 26th self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid dynasty, Abdullah Ibn Ahmed al-Qa'im bi-Amrollah, died in Baghdad after a nominal reign of 45 years. During the first half of his long reign, hardly a day passed in the capital without turmoil, because of the insubordination of the Turks against the last of the rulers of the Iranian Buwayhid dynasty. Meanwhile, a new wave of Turkic conquerors from Central Asia, under Toghrul Seljuqi, were casting eyes on Iraq, after sweeping across Iran and overrunning Armenia, Anatolia and Syria. Toghrul, on the pretext of travelling to Mecca for pilgrimage to the holy Ka'ba, entered Iraq with a heavy force, and was acknowledged as Sultan by the puppet caliph, who conspired to replace the Buwayhids.

800 solar years ago, on this day in 1215 AD, Zhongdu (now Beijing), then under the control of the Jurchen ruler Emperor Xuanzong of Jin, was captured by the Mongols under Genghis Khan, ending the Battle of Zhongdu.

763 solar years ago, on this day in 1252 AD, Alfonso X was crowned king of Castile and Leon, following the death of his father, Ferdinand III two days before. Born in the occupied Islamic city of Toledo in Spain, during his 32-year rule, although he was successful against Portugal, and managed to occupy the Muslim regions of Murcia and Cadiz, he suffered shattering defeats at the hands of Spanish Muslims when he tried to invade the Nasrid emirate of Granada. Twice his armies were defeated, especially in the Battle of Ecija in 1275. The important work undertaken by him was the study and translation of Arabic scientific books into the Castilian and Latin languages, in order to acquire knowledge from Muslims and break out from the dark ages into which the Christian Church had plunged Europe. The very first translation, commissioned by his brother, Fernando de la Cerda – who had extensive experience, both diplomatic and military, among the Muslims of Southern Spain and North Africa – was the animal fable *Kalila wa-Dimna*, a book that belongs to the genre of wisdom literature with stories and sayings meant to instruct the rulers in proper and effective governance. This book originated as “*Panchatantra*” in India, and was translated from Sanskrit into Middle Persian in 570 AD by the Sassanid Iranian scholar Borzuwayh. This became the basis for a translation into Arabic in 750 CE by Iranian scholar Abdullah Ibn al-Muqaffa as “*Kalila wa Dimna*”, and spread to North Africa and Spain.

267 solar years ago, on this day in 1948 AD, Qamar od-Din, titled Chin Qilich Khan Nizam ul-Mulk Asef Jah I, the founder of the kingdom of Hyderabad-Deccan in south India, passed away at the age of 77 and was buried in the city of Aurangabad. A scion of the Persianate family of Samarqand (presently in Uzbekistan) tracing its descent to the Iranian mystic, Ziya od-Din Abu'n-Najeeb Suhrawardi (not to be confused with Suhrawardi the Philosopher), he was thus a direct descendant of Mohammad ibn Abu Bakr – the first caliph's son who was loyal to the cause of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS). Born in Agra on 20 August 1671 to Ghazi ud-Din Khan Feroze Jung I who served as general to Emperor Aurangzeb and later as governor of Gujarat, his mother was daughter of Emperor Shah Jahan's Grand Vizier, Sa'dullah Khan. Nizam ul-Mulk was one of the ablest generals and statesmen of the late Mughal period. Disillusioned with the sorry state of affairs in Delhi decided to concentrate on the Deccan where in 1924, he declared his independence. During the invasion of Nader Shah Afshar, he was recalled to north India, and so greatly impressed the Iranian king in the negotiations, that he was offered the rule of all India, but politely refused. He was an accomplished poet in Persian and used the pennames “Asef” and “Shaker” in his two Divans. The dynasty which he founded ruled for 224 years until its merger in the Indian Union in 1948, a year after end of British rule. The dynasty, which hosted a large number of Iranian émigrés including statesmen, scholars, artists, and businessmen, greatly contributed to Persian literature, Islamic sciences, architecture, infrastructural-industrial development projects, and later with the establishment of Osmania University in 1918 to the promotion of Urdu language. Hyderabad-Deccan which was closely linked to the Safavid Iran is today the seat of the Iranian Consulate-General for South India.

162 lunar years ago, on this day in 1274 AH, the British deposed Bahadur Shah Zafar from the Mughal throne of Delhi and exiled him to Rangoon, Burma, thus ending over three and a quarter centuries of the rule of the Timurid dynasty, founded by Zaheer od-Din Babar – a protégé of Shah Ismail, the Founder of the Safavid Empire of Iran. The aging Bahadur Shah was accused of helping the uprising the previous year, and his sons and grandsons were shot in cold-blood by the British, who sadistically send their heads to the Mughal king as gifts on the day of Nowrouz, the Spring Equinox, when traditional celebrations were in progress at the court for the New solar hijri year. Bahadur Shah Zafar was an accomplished poet in both Persian and Urdu.

94 solar years ago, on this day in 1921 AD, the large scale Tulsa Race Riot ended after two days in Oklahoma State, in which white supremacists attacked the black community of Tulsa town's Greenwood District (known as the ‘Black Wall Street’), burning to the ground the wealthiest black community in the United States. During the 16 hours of mayhem, some 300 Afro-Americans were killed, over a thousand blacks admitted to hospitals with injuries, more than 6,000 black people arrested and an estimated 10,000 of them left homeless. As many as 35 city blocks composed of 1,256 residences were destroyed by fire. Due to heavy censorship by the government, the events of the riot were long omitted from local and state histories, and rarely mentioned in history books, classrooms or even in private. It was only in 1996, the state legislature commissioned a report to establish the historical record of the events. Released in 2001, most of the recommendations of the report have yet to be implemented by the state and city governments that is indicative of the racist nature of the US system, which despite its claim to human rights and social liberties, brutally suppresses people at home and abroad.

92 solar years ago, on this day in 1923 AD, one of the deadliest quakes shook the Japanese Capital, Tokyo flattening the city, setting it ablaze and killing more than 150,000 people.

77 solar years ago, on this day in 1938 AD, Pakistan's prominent Urdu and Persian poet, Khawar Rizvi was born in Punjab. Born as Seyyed Sibte Hassan Rizvi in a family tracing its descent from Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), he took the penname “*Khawar*” (East in Persian) for writing poetry and essays, as he was a great admirer of eastern values and way of life. An enlightened scholar, he actively participated in the political and intellectual movements as a member of the Progressive Writers' Movement. He was against all types of tyranny, dictatorship, subjugation and exploitation. Due to his ideology and political beliefs he became a victim of the oppressive policies of General Zia ul-Haq, the dictator of Pakistan. Khawar died in 1981.

57 lunar years ago, on this day in 1379 AH, the prominent Iranian literary figure, Abu'l-Hassan Foroughi, passed away in his hometown Tehran. He was a lecturer on history and geography, especially at Tehran University. He wrote many books, including “*Tarikh-e Adabiyat-e Iran*” (Literary History of Iran), and in French language titled “*Social and Philosophical Ideas*”

47 solar years ago, on this day in 1968 AD, US blind-deaf author, political activist, and lecturer, Helen Adam Keller, died at the age of 88. She was the first deaf/blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. The story of how her teacher, Anne Sullivan, broke through the isolation imposed by a near complete lack of language, allowing the girl to blossom as she learned to communicate, has become widely known through the dramatic depictions of the play and film “*The Miracle Worker*”. A prolific author, Keller was well-traveled, and was outspoken in her anti-war convictions. A member of the Socialist Party of the US and the Industrial Workers of the World, she campaigned for women's suffrage, labour rights, socialism, and other causes.

33 solar years ago, on this day in 1982 AD, one of the founders of the Iran Calligraphy Society, Seyyed Hussain Mir-Khani, passed away after his life-long efforts to this art. He mastered his skills by the age of 11, and spent thirty years grooming numerous students of calligraphy.

29 solar years ago, on this day in 1986 AD, a number of primary school pupils called on children across the world to designate a day for peace. Their message partly read: “*Our adults maintain fixed beliefs. They like us because we are their children. But, do they know that what kind of a world they have shaped for us? If the slightest mistake takes place in their nuclear installations we will never have a chance for growth. We demand means for growth and development. Thereafter, June 1 has been marked as the World Day of Children and every year especial ceremonies are held across the world on this occasion. On the other hand, despite all the wishes and demands of children in different parts of the world and irrespective of all efforts made by international organizations to dispel children's problems, still every year more than 6 million children lose their life in the world due to malnutrition and 250 million children in different countries are pushed toward forced labor. Moreover, the lives of millions of children are at risk due to inappropriate health conditions across the globe.*”

16 solar years ago, on this day in 1999 AD, Iranian philologist, Dr. Mahdi Roshan-Zameer, passed away in Tehran at the age of 80. Born in Tabriz, he completed his higher studies in Tehran and travelled to France, where he obtained PhD in 1957. On returning to Iran, he became a professor at Tabriz University where he taught for 27 years. Among his works are: “*Problems of the French Language*” in 3 volumes, “*Diya-e Khoubaan*” in 2 volumes on literary selections, and French translation of the book “*Firdowsi and Iran's National Epic*”.

14 solar years ago, on this day in 2001 AD, massacre occurred in the royal palace in Nepal when Crown Prince Dipendra shot and killed several members of his family including his father and mother, King Birendra and Queen Aiswarya. The murderer Dipendra immediately committed suicide and died three days later. In 2008 Nepal abolished monarchy and became a federal democratic republic.

(Courtesy: IRIB English Radio – <http://english.irib.ir>)

Kenyan Ambassador Discussed the Expansion of Medical Clinics

TEHRAN (RCS) - Expressing the impression of IRCS activities on her, Sabu conveyed the Kenyan Red Cross compliments for medical aids and IRCS representatives in the Nairobi clinic.

In her talks Sabu pointed to the natural disasters such as flood, earthquake and fire in Kenya, she said that youth and volunteers of Kenya Red Cross need the help and support of the partners to provide humanitarian services to beneficiaries. She added that Kenya Red Cross to increase the awareness of the public needs the related trainings in Disaster management, in which the support and cooperation of IRCS in this issue is highly appreciated.

In this regard, Sabu hoped for IRCS support and cooperation in the following issues:

1. IRCS experience and knowledge in disaster management (DM), that



Roqayeh Ahmad Sabu, Kenyan Ambassador and Dr. Ziaee, the President, Discussed the Expansion of Medical Clinics and Cooperation in Disaster Management.

is valuable for Kenya Red Cross in order to advance and develop its activities in DM. She suggested the opportunity for holding DM training courses for Kenya Red Cross staff and volunteers.

2. The establishment and development of medical clinics especially in Muslim regions, for providing medical services related to widespread gynecological diseases, like breast cancer, vaccination,

dialysis machine.

Remarking the important role of Kenyan Red Cross in assisting needy and conflict affected people in Kenya, Ziaee announced IRCS readiness in helping beneficiaries and hoped for expanding of cooperation between two NSs. He added IRCS has established thirty medical centers in twenty-five countries that provide health services, in which Kenya is among them.

He pointed the strategic location of Kenya in Africa affords an opportunity to increase cooperation, for this reason, he offered to update the existing version of MoU between two NSs.

In reply to the request of cooperation in Disaster Management, Ziaee welcomed the suggestion and asked for more discussions by inviting a Kenyan delegation to visit IRCS.

Iran, Azerbaijan Urge Closer Tourism Cooperation

ZAGREB (Tasnim) – Head of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) Masoud Soltanifar and Azeri Minister of Culture and Tourism Abulfaz Garayev held talks on ways to promote Tehran-Baku cooperation in diverse areas, tourism in particular.

In the meeting held in the Croatian capital of Zagreb on the side-

lines of the 100th session of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Executive Council, Soltanifar pointed to the cultural and historical common grounds between Iran and Azerbaijan, saying that Iran is determined to promote bilateral relations with other countries through utilizing the capacities of tourism.

“We are seeking to pave the way for the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as a neighboring and Muslim country that has the most commonalities with us, to benefit from these (Iran's tourism) capacities,” he noted.

The Azeri minister, for his part, voiced his country's readiness to develop mutual cooperation with Iran in the field of tourism.

Garayev said Baku plans to facilitate the process of issuing visa to tourists, adding that developing an electronic visa system is among his country's plans.

The 100th session of the UNWTO Executive Council kicked off on Wednesday and continued until May 30. It was attended by representatives of tourism ministries from all around the world.

Scholar Calls for Shia Studies, Persian Language Courses

MADRID (IQNA) – Head of the Semitic Languages Department at the University of Granada's Faculty of Philosophy and Literature underlined the need for Shia studies courses to be presented at the university.

Carmelo Pérez Baltran also said that in order for teaching Shia Islam and the history and culture of Iran, it is necessary that Persian languages courses are also offered at the university.

He made the remark in a meeting with Alireza Esmaeili Kamilas-

hi, Iran's cultural attaché in Madrid, Spain.

José Antonio Pérez Tapias, the dean of the faculty, was also present at the meeting.

The Iranian cultural envoy in this meeting referred to the establishment of an Islamic Studies chair and offering Arabic language courses at the university and suggested that the students could have the choice to take a course on Persian language as well.

IAU, London Met Sign MoU

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Islamic Azad University (IAU), Science and Research Branch and London Metropolitan University (London Met) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to expand scientific bilateral cooperation.

According to the MoU, Islamic Azad University and London Metropolitan University will cooperate in fields of training, research as well as exchange of professors and research scholars.

The Islamic Azad University, commonly referred to as Azad University is the world's third largest univer-

sity and the largest private university system. The university is based in Iran.

Headquartered in Tehran, the Islamic Azad University, founded in 1982 by Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, currently has 1.5 million students, making it the world's third largest higher education institute.

Azad University has over 100 branches across the country and overseas. It has branches in UAE, United Kingdom, Tanzania, Lebanon and Armenia and has plans to establish more branches in Malaysia, Canada, Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the near future.

Stagers Pay Tribute to War Soldiers' Mothers

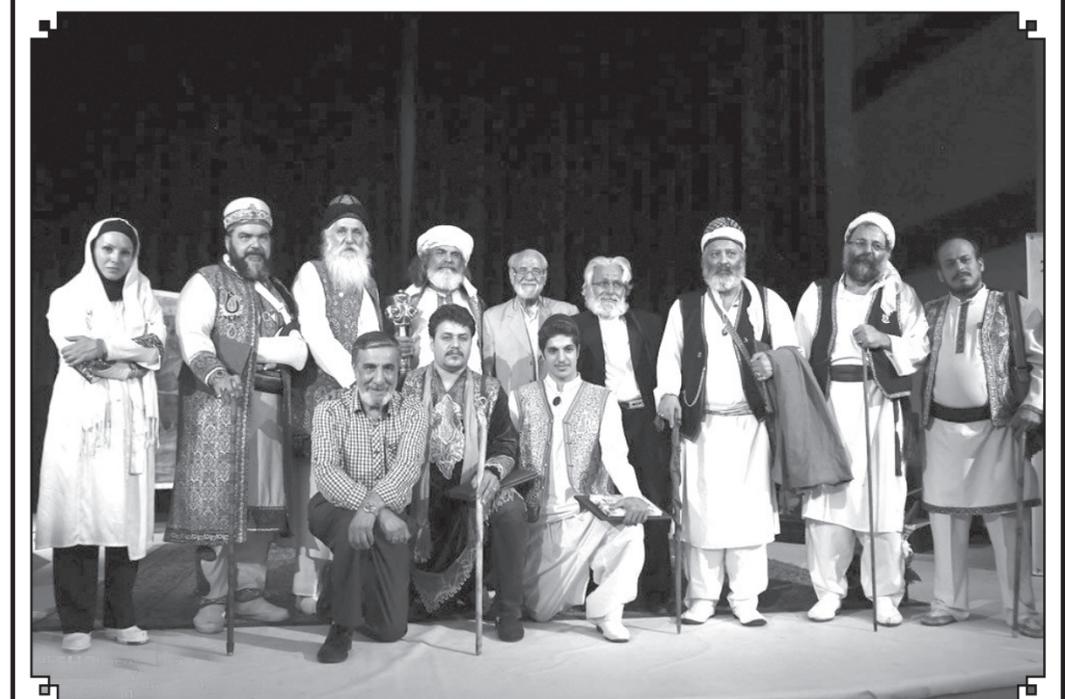
STOCKHOLM (MNA) – The Iranian theater group performing in the Swedish Biennial for Performing Arts, dedicated one of its plays to the mothers of 175 martyred divers of Iran-Iraq war.

The Iranian theater group Yasetamam which is currently performing in the Swedish Biennial for Performing Arts, dedicated the two performances of one of its plays Count to One to the mothers of 175 martyred divers of Iran-Iraq war who disappeared in December 1986 and were recently found in a mass grave in Iraq where they were buried alive with tied hands.

Zahra Sabri from the Iranian theater group told Mehr News the play was inspired by acclaimed Persian poet Khayyam while the other work of the group Earth and Wheel was motivated by Rumi's poetry.

The theater group is set to stage its second play Earth and Wheel two times in the Swedish Biennial.

Picture of the Day



Naqqāli, Iranian dramatic story-telling, Naqqāli is the oldest form of dramatic performance in Iran. The performer – the Naqqāl – recounts stories in verse or prose accompanied by gestures and movements, and sometimes instrumental music and painted scrolls. The gathering of most outstanding figures of the arena was held in Hamedan, Hamedan Province – Iran. Courtesy: MNA