

This Day in History

September 1

Today is Thursday; 11th of the Iranian month of Shahrivar 1395 solar hijri; corresponding to 29th of the Islamic month of Zi'l-Qa'dah 1437 lunar hijri; and September 1, 2016, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

Several millennia ago, after the descent of Adam (AS) and Eve (SA) on Planet Earth, the Almighty Creator showered one of His permanent blessings for the first human pair and their offspring that would multiply and spread around the globe, by sending the structure of the holy Ka'ba on the very spot that ages before had emerged as the first piece of dry land from under waters, in what is now Mecca. Adam (AS) was inspired to construct the cubic-shaped edifice as the first-ever model of a house and dedicate it to the worship of the Unseen but Omnipresent God. It was rebuilt by Prophet Abraham (AS), after the damage it had suffered in the Great Deluge of the day of Prophet Noah (AS), while the rituals of its pilgrimage, the Hajj, were finalized by Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). It is the focal point of worship for Muslims all over the world, and not a single moment passes as the earth rotates on its axis while revolving around the sun to determine minutes, hours, days and nights, when people around the globe are not bowing towards it. The only person ever born in the holy Ka'ba, by the Will of God, is the Prophet's divinely-decreed vicegerent Imam Ali (AS).

1431 lunar years ago, on this day in 6 AH, God granted Islam and Muslims a Great Victory over the pagan Arabs with the signing of the Treaty of Hodaibiyya by Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). The holy Qur'an says in this regard in the opening ayah of Surah Fath: "Indeed, We have opened for you a Manifest Victory." It is worth noting that when the Prophet, along with some 1,400 unarmed Muslims, set out from Medina to perform the Umrah or the minor pilgrimage and reached within 20 km of the city of Mecca, the pagan Arabs breached their word and blocked his way at a place called Hodaibiyya. Negotiations took place between the two parties and it was decided that the Muslims would return to Mecca for now, but would be allowed to perform the pilgrimage next year. A treaty was drafted specifying the terms of truce between the two sides and their allies, provided the seals were not violated. Imam Ali (AS) acted as the scribe of the Prophet, who placed his seal and signature on the document despite the opposition to its contents by some of his companions. The Prophet, however, insisted on honouring the letter and spirit of the treaty, which was indeed a new and dynamic development in the Arabian Peninsula, and established the rapidly increasing Muslim community as the paramount power. The terms of the Treaty of Hodaibiyya were violated by the Arab infidels, and two years later in 8 AH, the Prophet was commanded by God to march peacefully upon Mecca, which surrendered without bloodshed to the Muslims. This was another milestone in the history of monotheism and led to the cleansing of the holy Ka'ba of the idols that the pagan Arabs had installed in Prophet Abraham's edifice to the One and Only God.

1299 solar years ago, on this day in 717 AD, the Omayyad siege of Constantinople with an armada of 1,800 ships ended in defeat because of the deceit by General Leo the Isaurian, who after rising up against Emperor Theodosios III. Leo tricked the Muslims and secured the Byzantine throne for himself. The campaign marked the culmination of twenty years of attacks and progressive Arab occupation of the Byzantine borderlands.

871 solar years ago, on this day in 1145 AD, the Spanish Muslim geographer, traveler and Arabic poet, Abu'l-Hussain Mohammad Ibn Ahmad Ibn Jubayr al-Kinaani was born in Valencia. Son of a civil servant, he served as secretary to the governor of Granada (Gharnata in Arabic), but left the post for the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, which began in 1183 and ended with his return to his homeland, Muslim Spain, in 1185. He has written a lively account of his journey, titled "ar-Rihlah" (translated into English by R.J.C. Broadhurst as The Travels of Ibn Jubayr). It is a valuable source for the history of the period, containing descriptions of voyages across the Mediterranean and of the lands he passed through. In describing Cairo, he has given an account of the seizure of Egypt ten years earlier from the Fatimid Ismaili Shi'ite Muslim dynasty by the Kurdish adventurer, Salah od-Din Ayyubi, and the Muslim victories in the Levant over the European Crusader invaders. On his return journey to Spain, Ibn Jubayr passed through Sicily, which a century earlier had been lost by Muslims to the Christian invaders, and makes several observations on the hybrid Islamic-Norman polyglot culture that flourished there. He has given eyewitness accounts of the Red Sea port of Jeddah, the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, and of Iraq and Baghdad which he also visited. He made two more voyages, with the third ending with his death in 1217 in Alexandria, Egypt, at the age of 72.

842 solar years ago, on this day in 1174 AD, the construction of the Pisa Tower started in the Italian city of Pisa. Soon after start of construction operations, the 55-meter tower tilted almost five meters from the vertical line. Currently, with the efforts of experts and engineers of different countries, the increasing tilt every year of the Leaning Tower of Pisa has been slightly reduced.

534 solar years ago, on this day in 1482 AD, a Tartar Muslim army of the Crimean Khanate, led by Mengli Giray Khan, attacked Kiev, the Ukrainian capital and sacked it on instigation of Duke Ivan III of Moscow. The invasion was the result of shifting alliances that brought about a period of Muscovite-Crimean cooperation against the disintegrating Golden Horde and Poland-Lithuania. This cooperation lasted from 1472 to 1511, and is seen by Russian historians as a great diplomatic achievement by Duke Ivan who sent seven diplomatic missions to Mengli Giray Khan from 1472 to 1482 for the attack and sack of Kiev. Mengli who ruled till 1515 was the maternal grandfather of Sultan Suleyman of the Ottoman Empire – his daughter having married Sultan Selim I. Mengli's son and successor, Mohammad Giray Khan allied with Poland and Lithuania in 1520 against Muscovy, and the next year his Muslim army inflicted a crushing defeat on Duke Vasili III of Russia near Moscow, making him sue for peace. Established in 1449 by Tatar Muslims in what are now southern Ukraine, southern Russia and Moldova, the Khanate of Crimea ruled the area for over three centuries until it fell to Russian expansionism in 1783. It was closely allied to the Ottoman Empire and became its vassal state in its last century of rule. The Crimean Khanate established a flourishing Islamic culture, used the Perso-Arabic script, and built splendid mosques, bazaars, public baths, fountains, palaces, and libraries, which were criminally destroyed by the Russians who removed all traces of Muslim culture.

445 solar years ago, on this day in 1571 AD, Famagusta on the island of Cyprus, surrendered to Mustafa Pasha, the commander of the Ottoman forces after nearly a year-long siege. With its surrender by its Venetian occupiers, Cyprus was once again brought under Muslim rule, several centuries after the end of Arab rule. It was leased to the British in 1878 on condition of protecting the decaying Turkish Empire from Russian attacks. In 1923, when the Ottomans were pressured to give up all of their European territories, except Istanbul, Britain forced the truncated state of Turkey to relinquish all claims to Cyprus, and in 1925 declared it as a crown colony. In 1960, Cyprus gained its independence from British rule as per the Zürich and London Agreement between Britain, Greece and Turkey, with quotas on ethnic basis for government posts and public offices, which were violated by the Greek majority. The present division of the island occurred in 1974, following the massacre of over 125 Muslims in Cyprus and the plot to merge it with Greece, prompting Turkey to dispatch troops to seize Famagusta and the northern part of the island, which since then is known as the Turkish Democratic Republic of Cyprus.

136 solar years ago, on this day in 1880 AD, the army of Mohammad Ayub Khan was routed by the British at the Battle of Qandahar, ending the Second Anglo-Afghan War.

93 solar years ago, on this day in 1923 AD, the Great Kanto earthquake devastated Tokyo and Yokohama, killing about 105,000 people.

85 solar years ago, on this day in 1931 AD, Indian Islamic scholar, Dr. Mohammad Abdul Haq Ansari, was born in Tamkohi in Deoria district of what is now Uttar Pradesh State. He completed Islamic studies from Darsgah-e Islami, Rampur in 1953, did bachelors in Arabic in 1957, M.A. in philosophy in 1959, PhD in 1962 from Aligarh Muslim University, and M.T.S in Comparative Religion and Theology from Harvard University, USA in 1972. Ansari served as Professor and Head of the Department of Arabic, Persian and Islamic Studies, Vishwa Bharti University, Shantiniketan, Bengal State from 1965 to 1978. He was the president of Jamaat-e-Islami-e Hind (JIH) from 2003 to 2007. He was also the Chancellor of Jamia Islamia, Shantapuram, Kerala. His book "Learning the Language of Qur'an" is considered as one of the best English guides for the beginners of Qur'anic studies. Among his works, before he taught at universities in Saudi Arabia, are well-researched books on two of the Iranian philosophers, titled "The Ethical Philosophy of Miskawaih" (1964), and "The Moral Philosophy of al-Farabi" (1965). He died in October 2012.

77 solar years ago, on this day in 1939 AD, World War 2 broke out following the invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany. The goal of Nazi leader, Adolph Hitler, was to avenge the humiliating terms imposed on Germany by the Allied Powers at the end of World War I. In a short while, Germany occupied a large section of Europe and parts of North Africa. Meanwhile, the two other allies of Germany in World War II, Italy and Japan also occupied other regions in Africa and Asia respectively. In early 1943, however, the tide turned against the German forces following their failure to overcome stiff Soviet resistance in Stalingrad (which is now called Volgograd). Finally on May 1945 Germany surrendered unconditionally. Almost 40 million people were killed and billions of dollars worth of damages inflicted on different countries during World War II.

76 lunar years ago, on this day in 1361 AH, prominent Iranian scholar of the seminary of holy Najaf, Ayatollah Ziya od-Din Iraqi, passed away at the age of 83 in Iraq. Born in a village near Arak in the Central Province of Iran, After basic studies in Arak he left for Iraq and studied leading scholars of holy Najaf, especially Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Fesharaki. He mastered the various branches of Islamic science and succeeded Akhond Khorasani as the leading scholar. He was famous for his eloquent oratory skills as well as fluent style of writing. He wrote several books and groomed many scholars.

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

Iran Holds Royan Int’l Scientific Festival



TEHRAN (ISNA) - The 17th Royan International Scientific Festival was held in Tehran as top

foreign and local plans were awarded in the event. 175 plans from 36 countries were

sent to the secretariat of the event. 98 ones belonged to stem cells and regenerative medicine and 77 of

which belonged to reproductive medicine.

Royan Institute is an Iranian clinical, research and educational institute dedicated to biomedical, translational and clinical researches acting as a leader of Stem Cell research and also one of the best clinics for infertility treatment.

Royan is a public non-profitable organization which is affiliated to Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research (ACECR) and was established in 1991 by the late Dr. Saied Gourabi as a research institute for Reproductive Biomedicine and infertility treatments. In 1998 this institute was approved by Ministry of Health as Cell Based Research Center.

Hamid-Reza Tayyebi, Head of Iranian Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research (ACECR) also took part in the event and delivered a speech.

‘Oblivion Season’ Wins Best Trailer Award

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian feature movie ‘Oblivion Season’ won the Best Trailer Award at the Bucharest ShortCut Cinefest.

Produced by Masoud Farjam, the trailer of award-winning movie

Oblivion Season has so far grabbed many awards of the Best Trailer at TMFF and Indie FEST, in the US and the UK.

Oblivion Season’s trailer has competed with counterparts from

the US, France, Spain, and Canada and won the best title at Romanian event, Bucharest ShortCut Cinefest.

Directed and produced by Abbas Rafei, Oblivion Season narrates

the story of a struggling but strong-spirited woman who, against all prejudices, tries to assert herself against working women and also against the hostility and contempt of the family of her husband.

Iranian Cheetahs’ Population Declining Rapidly

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The head of the Iranian Cheetah Society (ICS), a Tehran-based NGO, said the population of Iranian cheetahs, also known as Asiatic cheetahs, is undergoing a rapid decline despite all measures taken to save the endangered species.

“The situation is very critical,” Morteza Islami said on Tuesday.

“We have been monitoring the situation closely in the past five years and the population of female Asiatic cheetahs has significantly dropped.”

Smokers More Prone to Crohn’s Disease Relapses

LONDON (Dispatches) Smoking is strongly linked to relapse of a serious bowel condition, research has confirmed. People with Crohn’s disease are more likely to experience a recurrence after surgery if they continue to smoke, the study has found.

Researchers led by the University of Edinburgh conducted a UK-wide trial of the therapy involving 240 people with Crohn’s disease.

Patients were monitored for three years after they had undergone surgery. Some 128 patients were treated with a drug from the thiopurine family called mercaptopurine and 122 were given a dummy medicine.

Only three of 29 smokers treated with the therapy experienced a relapse compared with 12 of 26 who received the dummy drug.

The rate of relapse in the non-smoking group was much lower and was unaffected by treatment with the medicine.

Crohn’s disease occurs when the immune system attacks the lining of the gut and bowel to cause severe inflammation. It results in abdominal pain, urgent diarrhea, sickness and profound lethargy.

Patients are initially treated with one of a class of drugs called thiopurines, which dampen the immune system.

More than half of patients require surgery to remove the affected section of their bowel. Surgery is not curative, however, and the condition often relapses.

Tuesday was Iran’s national cheetah day, marking an event more than two decades ago when a cub named Marita survived an attack by a group of villagers in which his mother and two siblings were killed. Marita became a national symbol.

Iranian cheetahs are a subspecies of the fastest animal on earth and classified as critically endangered, with fewer than 40 believed to remain in Iran.

“In some of our other environmental areas we haven’t had any reports of female cheetahs for at least two years now, including in an area near the city of Yazd where only four male cheetahs survive,” Eslami said.

Two Asiatic cheetahs – a male, Koushki, and a female, Delbar – are



held in captivity at Tehran’s Pardisan Park research centre. They have not yet successfully mated.

Eslami said the fate of Asiatic cheetahs was important because two

other big cats, the Caspian tiger and Persian lion, had become extinct in Iran. The Caspian tiger is extinct worldwide; a small population of Persian lions remains in India.

Picture of the Day



A man holds himself on the side of a boat after jumping into the sea from a crowded wooden boat during a rescue operation at the Mediterranean sea, about 13 miles north of Sabratha, Libya.

Image credit: Mehr News Agency