

This Day in History

(January 28)

Today is Sunday; 8th of the Iranian month of Bahman 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 10th of the Islamic month of Jamadi al-Awwal 1439 lunar hijri; and January 28, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1432 lunar years ago, on this day in 7 AH, Khosrow Pervez, the powerful 22nd emperor of the Iranian Sassanid Empire, was killed by his own son, Shiruvieh (Qobad II), after a string of setbacks against Byzantine or the Eastern Roman Empire, following his early victories that had taken his armies to the gates of Constantinople and brought Syria, Palestine and Egypt, under his control. He died a humiliating death, as per the prediction of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), whose epistle inviting him to the truth of Islam he had scornfully torn into pieces. Six years later the Muslims defeated the Sassanids and captured their capital Ctesiphon in Mesopotamia, and within a few years the whole empire was brought into the fold of Islam, with the Iranian people, tired of the tyranny of their rulers, becoming Muslims.

1413 lunar years ago, on this day in 36 AH, the Battle of Jamal or Camel took place near Basra in Iraq, between the forces of Islam, led by the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), and the secessionists led by Talha, Zubayr bin Awam, the latter's son Abdullah ibn Zubayr and the Omayyad Marwan bin Hakam. The secessionists, who had earlier looted the public treasury of Basra and shed Muslim blood at the instigation of Abdullah bin Zubayr, connived to deceive the Muslims by bringing along with them to the battlefield, Ayesha, one of the wives the widower Prophet had married in the last ten years of his life. She was seated on a camel, called 'jamal' in Arabic; hence the name of the battle. Imam Ali (AS), who was the First Infallible Successor of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), won a decisive victory after his efforts to persuade the secessionists to return to the fold of Islam failed. Some 13,000 secessionists were killed including Talha and Zubayr bin Awam – the latter under mysterious circumstance after having acknowledged the righteousness of Imam Ali (AS) and ruing his folly to join the secessionists. The Imam, after due admonition sent back the erring Ayesha to Medina, accompanied by her brother, Mohammad ibn Abu Bakr, who was a staunch supporter of Imam Ali (AS). Abdullah bin Zubayr and Marwan bin Hakam were lucky to escape alive, and the two of them continued their seditions in the subsequent decades, to divide Muslim ranks and shed Muslim blood.

1058 lunar years ago, on this day in 380 AH, the well-known Iranian Islamic astronomer and mathematician, Abu-Ja'far ibn Ayoub Tabari Haseb, passed away. He has left behind a book in Persian language titled "Shish Fastl" which presents questions and answers on astronomy.

981 lunar years ago, on this day in 458 AH, the Iranian Sunni scholar of Hadith, Ahmad ibn Hussain Ibn Ali al-Khosrojerdi al-Bayhaqi, passed away. He authored several books including "Sunan al-Kubra" ("Sunan al-Bayhaqi"), "al-Asma' wa's-Sifaat" (The Divine Names and Attributes) and "Dala'el an-Nubuwwah" (Proofs of Prophethood)

1204 solar years ago, on this day in 814 AD, Charlemagne, the king of Franks, died. After his conquest of Italy and central Europe he was crowned as Roman Emperor and was brutal in his suppression of opposition to his rule. His attempt to invade Muslim Spain met with defeat and a historical retreat that resulted in the complete destruction of his rearguard by the Basques in the Pyrenees. When a clock was sent to him from Baghdad by the scientifically advanced Muslims, Charlemagne and the Europeans who were living in the dark ages were suspicious of the mechanical object and thought that a genie was inside it, showing the time of the day.

389 solar years ago, on this day in 1629 AD, Sam Mirza was crowned Shah Safi of the Safavid Empire, ten days after the death of his grandfather, Shah Abbas I. An inefficient ruler, he ruthlessly eliminated anyone he regarded as a threat and paid little attention to state affairs, preferring to spend time in his addiction to opium. Iran's enemies took opportunity Safi's perceived weakness. The Ottomans made incursions in the west (briefly occupying Tabriz) and seizing Baghdad. Iran was troubled by the Uzbeks and Turkmens in the northeast and lost Qandahar in what is now Afghanistan to the Moghal Empire of the Subcontinent in 1638.

271 solar years ago, on this day in 1757 AD, Ahmad Shah Abdaali (Durrani) of what is now Afghanistan invaded India, annexed the Punjab and briefly occupied Delhi to save the tottering Moghal dynasty and the people from the raids of the Maratha marauders. An ethnic Pashtun general of Nader Shah Afshar of Iran, he had taken part in the latter's triumphal march on Delhi. On Nader Shah's death, Ahmad seized control of the eastern parts of Iranian Khorasan and the Pashto-speaking regions of the Moghul Empire of India to set up the first independent Afghan state in 1747. In 1761 he again invaded India to inflict a shattering defeat on the Marathas at the 3rd Battle of Panipat, thus ending, once and for all, their dreams of empire in India.

274 solar years ago, on this day in 1754 AD, the word "Serendipity" meaning a "fortuitous happenstance" or "pleasant surprise" was coined from Persian by Horace Walpole. He explained an unexpected discovery he had made by reference to a Persian tale titled "The Three Princes of Serendip", who were "always making discoveries, by accidents and sagacity, of things which they were not in quest of." "Serendip" was the Iranian name for Sri Lanka. In its modern vernacular, "serendipity" is commonly associated with luck and accidental discovery. In contrast, "Bahramdipity" is derived from the 15th Sassanid Emperor of ancient Iran, Bahram Gur, and means suppression of serendipitous discoveries or research results by powerful individuals.

172 solar years ago, on this day in 1846 AD, the Battle of Aliwal, in Punjab near Ludhiana was won by the superior tactics of British troops, making it a turning point in the First Anglo-Sikh War.

136 solar years ago, on this day in 1882 AD, Moroccan freedom fighter Amir Abdul-Karim al-Khattabi was born. He struggled against the Spanish and French domination of Morocco. In World War I, Spain massacred many Muslims in Morocco. After the war, France slaughtered thousands of Moroccan Muslims. He was exiled to Reunion in the Indian Ocean, and later moved to Egypt, where he presided over the Liberation Committee of the Maghreb from European colonial rule.

122 solar years ago, on this day in 1896 AD, Giuseppe Fiorelli, Italian archaeologist whose excavation at Pompeii helped preserve much of the ancient Roman city, died. In August 79 AD Mount Vesuvius erupted, burying in volcanic ash and molten lava Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Stabiae, which were notorious as vice dens. Some 20,000 people were struck by divine wrath. Here it is necessary to recall the warnings of God in the holy Qur'an to mankind to travel around the world to see the ruins of past nations and reflect on the fate that befell unrepentant sinners.

98 lunar years ago, on this day in 1341 AH, Islamic scholar and researcher, Seyyed Abu-Bakr Hadhrami Alawi, passed away in Haiderabad-Deccan in southern India. Of Yemeni origin, his compilations include the Arabic work "ash-Shahab as-Saqeb". He was fluent in Persian and Urdu.

85 solar years ago, on this day in 1933 AD the name 'PAKISTAN' was coined by Choudhary Rahmat Ali Khan who campaigned for a separate country made up of the five predominantly Muslim populated regions of the Subcontinent in the northwest. He authored the famous 1933 pamphlet titled "Now or Never; Are We to Live or Perish Forever", which is also known as the Pakistan Declaration. In 1947, at the birth of the country he had envisaged, he was unhappy over a Smaller Pakistan than the one he had conceived in his 1933 pamphlet.

49 solar years ago, on this day in 1390 AH, Allamah Abdul-Hussain Amini, author of the valuable book "al-Ghadeer", passed away in holy Najaf. Born in Tabriz, he attained the status of Ijtihad at a relatively young age, and started writing books. His magnum opus is the 11-volume "al-Ghadeer fi'l-Kitab wa's-Sunna wa'l-Adab", in which he refers to the ayahs of the holy Qur'an, the Prophet's hadith and Arabic literature, regarding the historical event of Ghadeer-Khom on the 18th of Zilhijja 10 AH, when Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) while returning from his Farewell Hajj Pilgrimage was commanded by God Almighty to proclaim Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS) as his vicegerent. While writing this book Allamah Amini endured the hardships of travel to several lands, including India, Turkey, Syria, Egypt and Iraq to study different sources. He gathered from Sunni sources the narrations of at least 110 Sahaba or the Prophet's companions about the event of Ghadeer, and recorded the Hadiths narrated in this regard by 360 reliable narrators.

39 solar years ago, on this day in 1979 AD, the fugitive Shah's premier, Shapour Bakhtiar, tried to deceive the nation by announcing he would visit Paris for talks with the Father of Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA). The Imam quelled this deceptive move by saying he will meet Bakhtiar only when he resigns as prime minister and comes as an ordinary Iranian citizen.

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

Webometrics Includes Iranian Universities in Its Ranking



TEHRAN (MNA) – **Eight Iranian universities are included among the top one thousand universities of the World Ranking of Webometrics published in January 2018.**

Webometrics report is published by Cybermetrics Lab, a research group of the largest research institute of Spain, the Spanish National Research Council

(CSIC). The research group evaluates the performances of the world universities based on their web presence.

According to the latest edition of their evaluation in January 2018, the top 10 universities in the world are as follows:

1. Harvard University
2. Stanford University
3. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
4. University of California Berkeley
5. University of Michigan
6. University of Washington
7. University of Oxford
8. Cornell University
9. Columbia University New York
10. University of Cambridge.

Moreover, Iranian higher education institutions are placed among the top one thousand universities of the World Ranking of Webometrics published in January 2018. Among Iranian universities, the University of Tehran ranked 455 among the world universites. Other Iranian universities rankings are: Tehran University of Medical Sciences (566), Sharif University of Thechnolgy (582), Amirkabir University of Technology (843), Tarbiat Modares Univeristy (855), Isfahan Industrial University (895), Iran University of Science & Technology Tehran (922), and Ferdowsi University (964).

‘Starless Dreams’ Screened at Budapest Festival

TEHRAN (ISNA) – **Iranian documentary “Starless Dreams” directed by Mehrdad Oskouei will be screened at the Budapest International Documentary Festival.**

The 4th edition of Budapest

Omega-3s Most Effective For Cancer Prevention

ONTARIO (Dispatches) - Omega-3s from fish pack a stronger punch than flaxseed and other oils when it comes to cancer prevention, according to a new study.

According to a first-ever University of Guelph study, marine-based omega-3s are eight times more effective at inhibiting tumor development and growth.

“This study is the first to compare the cancer-fighting potency of plant- versus marine-derived omega-3s on breast tumor development,” said Prof. David Ma the Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences. “There is evidence that both omega-3s from plants and marine sources are protective against cancer and we wanted to determine which form is more effective.”

The study involved feeding the different types of omega-3s to mice with a highly aggressive form of human breast cancer called HER-2. HER-2 affects 25per cent of women and has a poor prognosis.

Ma exposed the mice to either the plant-based or the marine-based omega-3s, beginning in utero.

He found overall exposure to marine-based omega-3s reduced the size of the tumours by 60 to 70 per cent and the number of tumours by 30 per cent.

Omega-3s prevent and fight cancer by turning on genes associated with the immune system and blocking tumour growth pathways, said Ma.

Based on the doses given in the study, Ma said humans should consume two to three servings of fish a week to have the same effect.

Besides certain foods containing EPA and DHA, supplements and functional foods, such as omega-3 eggs or DHA milk, can offer similar cancer prevention effects, he added.

International Documentary Festival (BIDF), which is being held from January 23rd to 28th in Hungary, hosts more than 40 documentaries in the competition category from Italy, Denmark, Poland, Germany, Spain, France, Croatia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Chile, the United Kingdom, Austria, the United States and Hungary.

The documentary is about a prison for teenage girls in Iran. In a setting that's more rehab center than jailhouse, the girls — most of whom are there for drug-related

offenses — gossip, pray, goof off, and argue.

Starless Dreams plunges the viewer into the lives of seven young teenage girls sharing temporary quarters at a rehabilitation and correction center on the outskirts of Tehran. As the New Year approaches, some hope to celebrate with their family, while many of them do not want to go home.

“Starless Dreams” has won awards such as “Amnesty International” from the 66th Berlin Film Festival, “True Vision

Award” from the U.S. True False Festival as Best Documentary in 2016, Grand Prize and Prize of the best inspirational film of the United States Full Frame Festival, the Grand Prize of the International Festival of Ethnographic Film Jean Rouch in France, the best feature documentary of the International Hot Springs Documentary Festival of the United States, the best documentary of the Festival of London and the best documentary of the 10th edition of the Asia-Pacific Film Festival.

Mokri’s ‘Invasion’ Invited to Berlinale

TEHRAN (MNA) – **Iranian feature ‘Invasion’ directed by Shahram Mokri, who is better known for the surreal single-take slasher ‘Fish & Cat’, will be screened in the Panorama section of 98th Berlin International Film Festival.**

Known for his standout surreal single-take slasher “Fish & Cat,” which went on to win a number of international awards at 5th Atlántida Film Festival in Spain, Prague International Film

Festival, and Hanoi film festival in Vientnam, Shahram Mokri will now prepare his third feature ‘Invasion’ for its first international screening at this year’s Berlinale.

‘Invasion’ is also another single-take thriller about a murder case in a stadium. The police investigating the case have arrested the murder suspect, but are struggling with determining the actual murdering procedure in the face of lack of cooperation from the friends of the

murdered person,

The 68th annual Berlin International Film Festival is scheduled to take place from 15 to 25 February 2018 in Berlin, Germany.

Iran’s cinema is participating at this year’s Berlinale with three other titles including ‘Pig’ by Mani Haghighi, ‘Hendi & Hormoz’, a co-production between Iran and Czech Republic, and ‘Dressage’ by Pooya Bakoobeh.

Picture of the Day



A wood sculpture workshop is underway in Bandar Turkman, northern Iran.

Courtesy: IRNA