

This Day in History

(May 15)

Today is Monday, 25th of the Iranian month of Ordibehesht 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 18th of the Islamic month of Sha'ban 1438 lunar hijri; and May 15, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1117 lunar years ago, on this day in 321 AH, the renowned Arab lexicographer, literary figure, and poet, Mohammed ibn Hassan Ibn Durayd, passed away in Baghdad.

1112 lunar years ago, on this day in 326 AH, Abu'l-Qasim Hussain ibn Rouh an-Nowbakhti, the 3rd deputy of the Lord of the Age, Imam Mahdi (AS), passed away after serving as the special representative for 21 years during the "Ghaybat as-Sughra" or Minor Occultation of the 12th Imam. His tomb in Baghdad is the site of pilgrimage. Of Iranian stock, he was born in Qom and belonged to the famous family of scholars that produced the astronomer Abu Sahl al-Fadhli an-Nowbakht, the son of Nowbakht Alhvazi al-Farsi who designed the astrological chart for construction of Baghdad. Hussain ibn Rouh settled in Baghdad where he became a prominent jurist, theologian, and hadith expert. He was imprisoned for five years by the Abbasid regime which tried in vain to extract information from him about the whereabouts of the 12th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

1018 solar years ago, on this day in 999 AD, following the dethroning and blinding of the Iranian Samanid king of Central Asia, Mansur II, by his rebellious governor, Fayeqe-Khasah and Turkic slave general, Bektuzun, the two entered into an agreement with the rising power of Sultan Mahmud the Turkic king of Ghazna, to divide the land of Khorasan between them, by retaining control of Merv and Naishapour, while ceding Herat and Balkh to Mahmud.

843 solar years ago, on this day in 1174 AD, Nour od-Din Zangi, the powerful ruler of the Turkic dynasty of Syria, northern Iraq and southeastern Anatolia, founded by his father Atabeg Emad od-Din, after breaking away from the Iran-based Seljuqid Empire, died while preparing to invade Egypt to bring under control his rebellious Kurdish general, Salah od-Din, who had seized the Land of the Nile for himself from the Ismaili Shi'ite Fatimid Dynasty.

620 solar years ago, on this day in 1397 AD, the 4th king of Korea's Joseon Dynasty, who was posthumously called Sejong the Great, was born in an era when the Islamic calendar served as a basis for calendar reform owing to its superior accuracy over the Chinese-based calendars.

471 lunar years ago, on this day in 967 AH, the Ottoman fleet led by the Croat Muslim Admiral Piyale Pasha and the Bey of Tripoli Turgut Ra'ees, who was a Greek Muslim, defeated a combined Christian fleet, led by the Spanish, in the Battle of Jerba at the island of the same name near Tunis, in one of the major marine battles in the world that prevented North Africa from falling to the expansionist designs of Spain and other Christian powers. In this battle over two thirds of the huge Christian armada was destroyed and as many as 18,000 killed in addition to 5,000 captured and taken to Istanbul, while the Ottoman loss was only one thousand soldiers.

375 solar years ago, on this day in 1642 AD, Shah Abbas II was crowned the 7th Safavid Emperor of Iran at the age of 10 years in Kashan, three days after the death of his father Shah Safi. Born in Qazvin, he was tutored by Rajab Ali Tabrizi, and learned how to maintain order over the vast empire and other state affairs by two other nobles named Mohammad-Ali Beg and Jani Khan Shamlu. A year after coronation, he moved his court to the Safavid capital of Isfahan. Unlike his father, he took an active interest in government and military matters; and like his great-grandfather Shah Abbas I, he was famous for the construction of many buildings, such as the famous Chehel Sotoun in Isfahan. On the western front his rule was relatively peaceful and was free of any Ottoman attack. In 1648 he managed to liberate Qandahar in what is now Afghanistan from occupation of the Mughal Empire of the Subcontinent. The Mughal ruler Shah Jahan sent his son Aurangzeb with an army of 50,000 soldiers but was unable to reoccupy Qandahar. In 1651, in the North Caucasus, Safavid troops came into conflict with Russia in the region of Sunzha, culminating into the Russo-Persian War of 1651-53. The Safavid influence prior to the war extended to the feudal tenure of the Kумыks in Daghestan. After two successful years, the Iranian plans were to capture the city of Terek and to move all the way to Astrakhan on the northern side of the Caspian Sea, trouble on the eastern front with Mughal India distracted attention. The Russian government sent an embassy, led by Prince Ivan Lobanov-Rostovsky and Ivan Komynin, to Isfahan for peaceful settlement of the conflict, to which the Shah II agreed. The war ended with the Safavids managing to increase their influence in the North Caucasus even more. He was a capable ruler and during his 24-year reign, the country was relatively peaceful and free of any Ottoman attack. Shah Abbas' sudden death in Khusraabad near Damghan on the night of 25-26 October 1666, at the age of 34 was a great blow to Iran. He was buried beside his father in holy Qom.

369 solar years ago, on this day in 1648 AD, the first of the treaties of the Peace of Westphalia was signed between Prussia, Austria, and Sweden in Munster and Osnabruck, thereby ending the Thirty Years' War in the Holy Roman Empire, and the Eighty Years' War between Spain and the Netherlands. The last of these treaties was signed on October 24.

241 solar years ago, on this day in 1776 AD, the first steam boat was built. Seventy years following the discovery of steam power by a French engineer, Denis Papin, a steam boat was built by Marquis Claude de Jouffroy d'Abbans. The usage of steam power in ships marked a major development in the navigation industry.

167 solar years ago, on this day in 1850 AD, the Bloody Island Massacre took place in Lake County, California, in which over a hundred women, children, and elderly of the Pomo Amerindians were slaughtered by a regiment of the United States Cavalry, led by Nathaniel Lyon, while all able bodied men were on a hunting trip.

158 solar years ago, on this day in 1859 AD, the French scientist and physicist, Pierre Curie, was born in Paris. His talent in mathematics and physics was discovered at his youth and he conducted extensive research in these domains. In the year 1898, he managed to discover Radium with the assistance of his wife, Madame Curie. Pierre Curie died in the year 1906.

114 lunar years ago, on this day in 1324 AH, the first-ever Iranian parliament officially started its work, thanks to the selfless struggles of the people. The prominent members of the parliament included two popular religious leaders, Seyyed Mohammad Tabatabai, and Seyyed Abdullah Behbahani. Soon, Iran's first Constitution was drafted and signed by the Qajarid King, Mozaffar od-Din Shah. It was the one of the most active parliaments during the Constitutional era, before deviation set in.

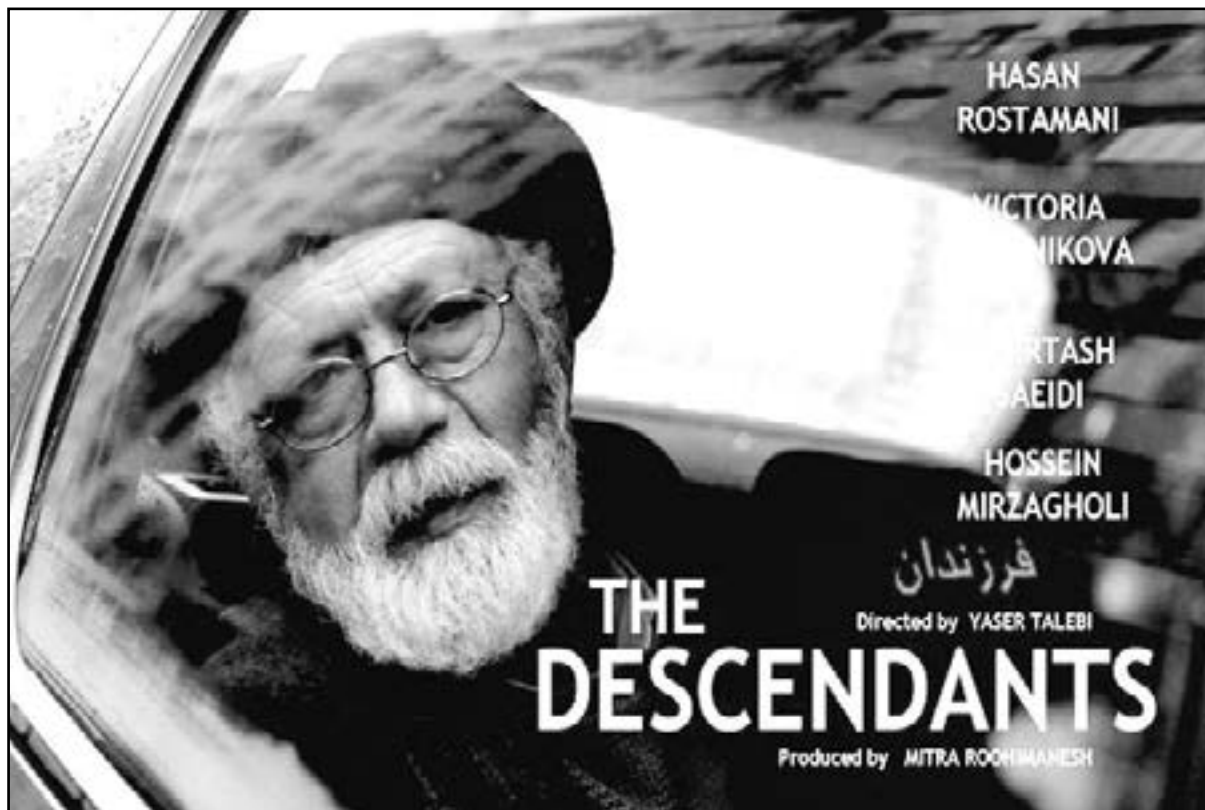
98 solar years ago, on this day in 1919 AD, the coastal city of Izmir was liberated from Greek occupation by Turkish forces led by Mustafa Kamal Pasha, who later emerged as a dictator and under western influence tried to eradicate the Islamic culture and religion of the Turkish Muslims.

77 solar years ago, on this day in 1940 AD, the German army, after a five-day offensive, occupied Netherlands during World War 2. The German forces started their attacks on France, Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg, west of Germany, as of May 10, 1940, and after a while occupied all four countries.

24 solar years ago, on this day in 1993 AD, the UN General Assembly designated May 15 as "International Day of Families" to emphasize the importance to the family unit. The Day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families. Ordibehesht 25 is commemorated every year in the Islamic Republic of Iran as Ferdowsi National Day, in honour of the great Iranian poet, Abu'l-Qasim Hassan Firdowsi, whose "Shahnamah" remains to this day as the finest example of Persian epic poetry.

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

'The Descendants' Wins Longleaf Film Award



TEHRAN (MNA) – 'The Descendants' by Yaser Talebi has won the Yonder Award for the best film at the 3rd edition of Longleaf Film Festival in North Carolina, US.

Directed by Yaser Talebi and produced by Mitra Rouhi, 'The Descendants' won the Yonder Award for best film at the 3rd edition of the American film festival.

'The Descendants' has already won several awards from international film festivals including Pembroke Taparelli (Best Film), Reel Rose Awards (Best Film), and Franklin County (Best Actor).

The film is about the quiet life of Jacob and his wife which becomes entangled with worries about their son Farrokh, who left Iran to continue his studies—he has not been in touch with them for a long time, and now the father embarks on an Odyssey-like journey to find him.

The 3rd edition of Longleaf Film Festival was held in North Carolina, US, on 12-13 May, 2017 with participation of over 60 films from across the globe.

Iran Cultural Exhibition Inaugurated in Baku

BAKU (IRNA) – A two-day cultural event called Iran's Cultural Days started on Saturday in one of the central squares of Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, to introduce various aspects of the Iranian culture.

The event is being held on the sidelines of the 4th Islamic Solidarity Games currently underway in the Azeri capital.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by residents of Baku as well as a number of the Iranians residing in the Azeri capital and foreign tourists.

In an address to Iran's Cultural Days opening ceremony, Cultural



Attaché of the Iranian Embassy in Azerbaijan Asghar Farsi said, "We want to introduce our rich culture and great civilization to the people and the guests here in Azerbaijan."

Referring to cultural, religious and historical common points between Iran and Azerbaijan, Farsi said that holding of Iran's Cultural Days in Baku 'will help promote friendship and brotherhood between the two countries.'

Various types of the Iranian handicrafts as well as artistic and cultural works of the Iranian artists are on display in open space pavilions and stalls.

3-D Printing Promises Superior Medical Implants

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - A new advancement in 3D printing technology developed at the University of Florida has provided millions of people with significantly quicker implantation of devices that are stronger, less expensive, more flexible and more comfortable than anything currently available.

In a paper published in the journal Science Advances, researchers lay out the process they developed for using 3D printing and soft silicone to manufacture items that millions of patients use: ports for draining bodily fluids, implantable bands, balloons, soft catheters, slings and meshes.

Currently, such devices are molded, which could take days or weeks to create customized parts designed to fit an individual patient. The 3D printing method cuts that time to hours, potentially saving lives. What's more, extremely small and complex devices, such as drainage tubes containing pressure-sensitive valves, simply cannot be molded in one step.

"Our new material provides support for the liquid silicone as it is 3D printing, allowing us create very complex structures

and even encapsulated parts out of silicone elastomer," said lead author Christopher O'Bryan, a mechanical and aerospace engineering doctoral student in

UF's Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering and lead author on the paper.

It also could pave the way for new therapeutic devices that

encapsulate and control the release of drugs or small molecules for guiding tissue regeneration or assisting diseased organs such as the pancreas or prostate.

Picture of the Day



Kermanshah province, in the west of Iran, is home to around 4500 places and sites of attraction for tourists and 736 of these places have been registered in the national list of Iran's historical heritage.

Credit: Mehr News Agency