

This Day in History

(October 23)

Today is Monday, 1st of the Iranian month of Aban 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 3rd of the Islamic month of Safar 1439 lunar hijri; and October 23, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1382 lunar years ago, on this day in 57 AH, Imam Mohammad al-Baqer (AS), the 5th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) was born. H was present in Karbala as a four-year old boy and was witness to the tragic martyrdom of his grandfather, Imam Husain (AS). In the aftermath of the tragedy he was imprisoned, along with his parents and the rest of the womenfolk and children of the Prophet’s progeny. During his 19-year Imamate, he strove to spread the genuine teachings of Islam. In fact, his epithet “Baqer al-Uloom” (Splitter and Spreader of Sciences) was foretold by the Prophet through the prominent Sahabi, Jaber Ibn Abdullah al-Ansari. He was martyred at the age of 57 through poisoning by the Omayyad caliph, Hesham ibn Abdul-Malik. The 5th Imam’s legacy was taken to new heights by his son Imam Ja’far as-Sadeq (AS).

1231 lunar years ago, on this day in 208 AH, Seyyeda Nafisah, the great granddaughter of Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (AS) – elder grandson of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) – and daughter-in-law of the Prophet’s 6th Infallible Heir, Imam Ja’far as-Sadeq (AS), passed away in Fustat near what is now Cairo in Egypt. She was laid to rest in that city when husband Ishaq al-Mo’tamen saw the Prophet in his dream, instructing him not to take the body to homeland Hijaz for burial in Medina, as planned. She was a very pious and God-fearing lady. Her husband was noted for his piety, knowledge, and reliability in narrating hadith, for which he had earned the epithet “al-Mo’tamen” or trustworthy. Nafisah, who came to Egypt in 193 AH after visiting Damascus to perform pilgrimage to the shrine of her great grand aunt, Hazrat Zainab (SA), was warmly welcomed by the Egyptian people. During her 15-year stay in Cairo, she used to hold classes of Qur’an and hadith, attended among others at various times by the Mystic Dhun-Noon al-Misri, Bishr bin Hareth al-Haafi of Baghdad – who was guided to the right path by Imam Kazem (AS). Due to her miraculous powers she cured the ill and saved Egyptians and the River Nile from drought. She was mother of Seyyed Qasim and Seyyedah Omm Kolthoum, while her equally pious niece, Seyyedah Zainab (daughter of her brother Seyyed Yahya), also has a much-visited shrine in Cairo, which some people wrongly think to be the resting place of the Heroine of Karbala, Hazrat Zainab (SA). The shrine of Seyyeda Nafisah is among the most visited pilgrimage centres in Egypt. On Sundays and Thursdays, thousands of people visit her shrine.

1126 solar years ago, on this day in 891 AD, the famous Greek Muslim admiral, Damian of Tarsus, known by his Islamic name of Ghulam Yazman al-Khadim, died during the siege of the Byzantine fortress of Salandu in what is now southwestern Turkey. His fame was such that he was among the ten illustrious Muslims whose portraits were hung in Byzantine churches in recognition of their valour. For a decade he was a thorn in the Greek side, and won several land and sea battles against the Christians, sometimes in alliance with another valourous Greek convert to Islam, Cleo or Rasheeq al-Wardami.

1106 lunar years ago, on this day in 333 AH, al-Muttaqi-Billah, the 21st self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime, was deposed and blinded by the Turkic general, Tuzun, who replaced him on the same day with a cousin called al-Mustakfi.

1034 lunar years ago, on this day in 405 AH, the prominent Iranian Sunni Muslim compiler of hadith, Mohammad Ibn Abdullah, Hakem an-Naishapuri, passed away. His famous book is “Mustadrek ala as-Sahihayn” in five volumes, which is a supplement to the two principal books of Sunni hadith, the “Sahih Bukhari” and the “Sahih Muslim” – also compiled by Iranians born in families of converts from Zoroastrianism. On the basis of the criteria set by the two, Hakem has collected thousands of hadith that Bukhari and Muslim had failed to locate, including many pertaining to the unparalleled merits of Imam Ali (AS), and the Ahl al-Bayt..

931 solar years ago, on this day in 1086 AD, at the Battle of az-Zallaqah in Islamic Spain, a Muslim army led by the Almoravid general, Yusuf ibn Tashfin, defeated the Christian forces of Castile’s King Alfonso VI.

883 solar years ago, on this day in 1134 AD, Spanish Muslim polymath, Abu’s-Salt al-Andalusi, passed away. On completing his education in Seville, he set out in 1096 for Egypt. In Cairo he entered the service of the Fatemid Ismaili Shi’a Muslim ruler, Ma’add al-Mustanshir-Billah, and the vizier al-Afdhal Shahanshah. In 1112, hel eft for Kairouan in Tunisia, where he entered the service of the Zirids of Ifriqiya. He also occasionally traveled to Palermo and worked in the court of Roger I of Sicily as a visiting physician. His works on astronomical instruments were read both in the Islamic world and Europe. He also worked as a teacher of alchemy, and wrote treatises on medicine, philosophy, music, and history. He became well known in Europe through translations of his works. He is also credited with introducing Andalusian music to Tunis, which later led to the development of the Tunisian ma’luf. Among his works is an encyclopedia of many scientific disciplines titled “Kitab al-Kafi fi’l-Uloom”.

200 solar years ago, on this day in 1817 AD, Pierre Larousse, French lexicographer and author was born. After years of study, he compiled the Larousse Lexicon..

184 solar years ago, on this day in 1834 AD, Fath-Ali Shah, the second Qajarid King of Iran, died, and was succeeded by his grandson, Mohammad Shah (son of deceased crown prince, Abbas Mirza). Much of Fath-Ali Shah’s 37-year long reign that saw the gradual loss of vast areas of Iran in the Caucasus, Khorasan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Central Asia and the Persian Gulf, was marked by the resurgence of Persian arts and painting, as well as a deeply elaborate court culture. He led a life of luxury oblivious of the poverty of the people and the political humiliation to Iran’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, as a result of the Russian-imposed Golestan and Turkmanchai Treaties, coupled with growing British pressures and encroachments.

105 solar years ago, on this day in 1912 AD, the Battle of Kumanovo, which resulted in a victory of Serb rebels over the Ottoman army in the Kosovo Vilayet, occurred shortly after start of the First Balkan War. After this defeat, the Turkish army abandoned the major part of the region, suffering heavy losses in manpower (mostly due to desertions) and in war material.

75 solar years ago, on this day in 1942 AD, during World War II, the Battle of al-Alamein, in the city of the same name in northern Egypt, occurred between the British and German troops. The British were led by Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery and the Germans by Field Marshal Erwin Rommel. The Germans were defeated, but war between the two countries continued in other regions of North Africa until the final Nazi defeat.

61 solar years ago, on this day in 1956 AD, the uprising in Hungry against the domination by the Soviet Union commenced three years after dissolution of the Hungarian Communist Party by nationalist Premier, Imre Nagy, who tried to make his country independent of Moscow. The Soviets crushed the uprising by arming and financially assisting the communists, who along with the Red Army slaughtered a large number of people. Most of Hungary was part of the Ottoman Empire from the decisive Muslim victory in 1526 at the Battle of Mohacs till 1718, when the Turks withdrew.

40 solar years ago, on this day in 1977 AD, Ayatollah Seyyed Mostafa Khomeini, the elder son of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), was martyred in the holy city of Najaf in Iraq by agents of Iran’s Pahlavi regime, at the age of 47. He was born in the holy city of Qom, where he mastered Islamic sciences and reached the level of Ijtihad at the young age of 27. For ten years he lectured at the Najaf Islamic Seminary, and was always alongside his father in the struggle against the despotic Shah’s regime. His martyrdom accelerated the pace of struggles of the Iranian people and led to the victory of the Islamic Revolution a year and four months later.

34 solar years ago, on this day in 1983 AD, in an anti-terrorist operation by martyrdom-seeking Lebanese Muslims against occupation forces in Beirut, 241 American and 58 French soldiers were killed. The US, French, British, and Italian occupation forces had entered Beirut to tilt the balance in favour of the Christian Phalangist militia in the Lebanese civil war, as well as to support the occupation of parts of Lebanon by the illegal Zionist entity, Israel. This heroic act forced the occupiers to pull out troops from Lebanon.

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

Iranian Photographer Wins UNIC Tokyo Photo Contest



TEHRAN (Dispatches)-Iranian photographer Kiarash Eghbali-Seresht has won the “Award of Recognition” of the Second Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Student Photo Contest organized by the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Tokyo and Sophia

University in Japan.

Kiarash Eghbali-Seresht, 23-year old Iranian photographer, student of economics at University of Tehran won the competition among more than 1,000 entries from 73 countries sent to the organizers.

As a photographer, he said that he always knew that the photo can tell more than 1000 words and each good photo has a message. And the background stories of the people, who are featured in the winning photos, are even more amazing than these professionally taken photos.

Kiarash said: “Being currently an intern at UNIC Tehran has helped me not only to understand what UN does in Iran, and feel part of it, but feel empowered that I can make positive change, even with my camera.”

He also explained about the background story of his photo of the old lady living on a street and said: “Affording medical expenses have been a great concern across the globe, not only in Iran. The elderly are much more vulnerable to different diseases and not always can afford to pay their medical bills. The pictured old lady with broken legs has been living outside Shariati Hospital in Tehran for two months, collecting money for hospitalization to have an operation on her legs.”

“The pain and anxiety in her eyes were such powerful message and influenced not just me, but also my friends, and we helped her collect money and she has undergone operation. It shows that sometimes just a photo can make a real difference,” he proudly added.

The award ceremony will take place in Tokyo on the United Nations Day on Tuesday, 24 October.

‘Boarding Pass’ Poster Artist Accuses ‘Flatliners’ of Plagiarism

TEHRAN (MNA) – Poster designer Taha Zaker told Mehr News that the film poster for American Sci-Fi ‘Flatliners’ bears a strong resemblance to Iranian film ‘Boarding Pass’, adding he will file a complaint against Sony Pictures if the plagiarism is proved.

Speaking to Mehr News correspondent on Sunday following speculations about the resemblance of his poster for ‘Boarding Pass’ – a 2017 Iranian drama directed by Mehdi Rahmani – to an American Sci-Fi film ‘Flatliners’ by Niels Arden Oplev, Taha Zaker said he

would soon file a complaint against Sony Pictures for plagiarizing his poster design.

“I designed the poster for ‘Boarding Pass’ back in 2016 before the 35th edition of Fajr Film Festival went underway, but the film was not accepted into the screening program of the festival so the poster did not get a chance to be unveiled at the time,” Zaker explained.

“Ultimately, the poster was sent to Berlin, Cannes and Venice film festivals in the form of a DVD cover. The film featuring my poster took part in Cannes film market and was

displayed to the public then,” he added.

“On 13 June 2017, the poster and trailer for ‘Flatliners’ were unveiled, which was a few months after the participation of ‘Boarding Pass’ in Cannes film market,” Zaker said.

We have all the necessary documents and proof about the exact date of designing and unveiling the poster, as well as the date of its submission to the Berlin film festival, he added.

Zaker noted that the reason he had decided to look up the Flatliners’ poster was the accusations he



received about his own poster being a copy of the American film; “I found it very interesting that the posters were very similar in terms of form and theme, but the artist has gone about the design differently,” he added.

Inactivity, Inefficient sleep Associated With Obesity

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Low levels of physical activity and inefficient sleep patterns intensify the effects of genetic risk factors for obesity, according to new studies.

The new study made use of wrist accelerometer data, which is more objective and quantifiable, and a large genetic dataset from about 85,000 UK Biobank participants aged 40 to 70.

“We wanted to find out if obesity-related genes and activity level have an interactive effect on obesity risk -- if there is a ‘double whammy’ effect of being both at genetic risk and physically inactive, beyond the additive effect of these factors,” said Andrew Wood, PhD, postdoctoral researcher, who presented the work at the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) 2017 Annual Meeting in Orlando, Fla.

The researchers computed a genetic risk score for each participant based on 76 common variants known to be associated with elevated risk of obesity, and analyzed this score in the context of accelerometer data and participants’ BMIs.

They found the strongest evidence to date of a modest gene-activity interaction. For example, for a person of average height with 10 genetic variants associated with obesity, that genetic risk accounted for a 3.6 kilogram increase in weight among those who were less physically active but just 2.8 kilograms among those who were more active. Results were similar in

analyses of sleep patterns; among participants with some genetic risk of obesity, those who woke up frequently or slept more restlessly had higher BMIs than those who slept more efficiently.

“We hope these findings will inform clinicians who help people lose or maintain their weight, and contribute to the understanding that obesity is complex and its prevention may look different for

different people,” said Dr.Timothy Frayling at the University of Exeter Medical School. “Ultimately, with further research, we may have the scope to personalize obesity interventions,” he said.

Picture of the Day



The distinct feature of Persian domes, which distinguish them from Christian, Ottoman and Mughal domes, is the colorful tiles, with which the exterior and the interior are covered.

Courtesy: Mehr News Agency