

## This Day in History

(May 28)

Today is Sunday; 7<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Khordad 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 2<sup>nd</sup> of the Islamic month of Ramadhan 1438 lunar hijri; and May 28, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**2602 solar years ago**, on this day in 585 BC, as per the prediction of Greek philosopher Thales of Miletus four days earlier, a solar eclipse occurred in the midst of a battle outside Sardis in what is now western Turkey, between the Medes of Iran and the Lydians. The battle ended in a draw. Alyattes of Lydia, agreed to enter into a truce with the Median Emperor, Cyaxares, thus ending the Battle of Halys. This is one of the cardinal dates from which other dates can be calculated.

**1098 lunar years ago**, on this day in 340 AH, the Iranian Arabic literary figure, lexicographer, and theologian, Abdur-Rahman ibn Ishaq az-Zujaji an-Nahawandi, passed away in Damascus. He was a student of the celebrated Ibn Durayd, and among his valuable compilations, mention can be made of *"Kitab al-Izzah"* and *"al-Jamal"*. In his other work, *"al-Amali"*, he has recorded the statements and maxims of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS).

**736 lunar years ago**, on this day in 702 AH, the Battle of Marj as-Saffar took place in Syria between the Mamluks of Egypt led by the Qipchaq Turkic Bahri ruler, Sultan Nasser ad-Din Qalawun, and an army of Mongols and Armenians sent by the Iran-based Ilkhanid Emperor, Ghazan Khan, whose general Qutlugh-Shah suffered a disastrous defeat near Kiswe, south of Damascus. The defeat ended Ghazan Khan's invasions of Syria. It is interesting to note that Ghazan Khan, the 7th ruler of the Ilkhanid Dynasty, although born a Buddhist, was baptized and raised as a Christian, and on ascending the throne, embraced the truth of Islam.

**493 solar years ago**, on this day in 1524 AD, Selim II, the Drunkard, the 3<sup>rd</sup> self-styled Turkish caliph and the 11th Ottoman Sultan, was born in Istanbul.

**279 solar years ago**, on this day in 1738 AD, French physician Joseph Ignace Guillotin, who promoted a law requiring the use of a "machine that beheads painlessly" as a humane mode for all executions for commoners or nobles alike, was born.

**215 solar years ago**, on this day in 1802 AD, in Guadeloupe in the French controlled islands of the Caribbean Sea, Louis Delgres, along with 400 of the so-called slaves, after being cornered by Napoleon's army in Fort Saint Charles, ignited gunpowder stores, in an attempt to kill as many of the French troops as possible, and died in the process himself with those supporting him.

**174 solar years ago**, on this day in 1843 AD, Noah Webster, US lexicographer, textbook pioneer, English spelling reformer, political writer, editor, and prolific author, died.

**165 solar years ago**, on this day in 1852 AD, French orientalist, Eugene Burnouf, who made significant contributions to the deciphering of Old Persian cuneiform, died.

**112 solar years ago**, on this day in 1905 AD, the 2-day Battle of Tsushima ended with the destruction of almost the entire Russian Fleet by Admiral Togo Heihachiro of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

**77 solar years ago**, on this day in 1940 AD, during World War II, Belgium, was occupied by German Nazi forces. On the other hand, on this day the Allied Forces, in the wake of a deadly confrontation with German troops, started to retreat from the Port of Dunkirk in eastern France. During these operations, 1774 warships of the Allied Forces took part to rescue 350,000 British, French, and Belgian soldiers. But, due to the air strikes against this French port and its siege by German Nazi forces, nearly 50,000 Allied Forces were killed and 400 of their warships were destroyed. France was subsequently completely occupied by German troops.

**53 solar years ago**, on this day in 1964 AD, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was formed by several combatant groups with the purpose of creating the independent State of Palestine. It is recognized as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people" by over 100 world countries and has enjoyed observer status at the United Nations since 1974.

**41 solar years ago**, on this day in 1976 AD, the famous Bengali painter, Zain ul-Abidin, passed away at the age of 62. He shot into prominence in 1938 winning the gold medal while studying art in Calcutta, and got the breakthrough in 1944 with his Famine Series paintings of 1943 on the great famine that afflicted Bengal. On the partition of the subcontinent, his hometown Kishoreganj now became part of East Pakistan, which in 1971 became Bangladesh. An artist of exceptional talent and international repute, he is rightly considered the Father of Bangladeshi Art.

**37 solar years ago**, on this day in 1980 AD, Iran's post-revolution Majlis (parliament) started its first 4-year term – a landmark event for the Islamic Republic of Iran. There are 290 MPs in the Majlis, elected by the people's direct vote. Religious minorities, such as Christians, Jews and Zoroastrians, have their own elected representatives. The Majlis as the Legislative Branch coordinates its policies with the other two branches of government – the Executive and the Judiciary.

**20 solar years ago**, on this day in 1997 AD, the savage Taliban militia was forced out of Mazar-e-Sharif city in northern Afghanistan by Uzbek forces led by former communist general, Abdur-Rashid Dostum, resulting in the massacre of over 3,000 of these Takfiri terrorists for their crimes against the Afghan Muslims. Later it was reported that Dostum personally supervised the mass burial of some 700 Taliban extremists in Mazar-e Sharif and another 1,300 dead at other sites. For his part, Uzbek General Malik Pahlawan killed some 1,250 Taliban militiamen by leaving them in closed container trucks in the desert sun in retaliation for their crimes against humanity.

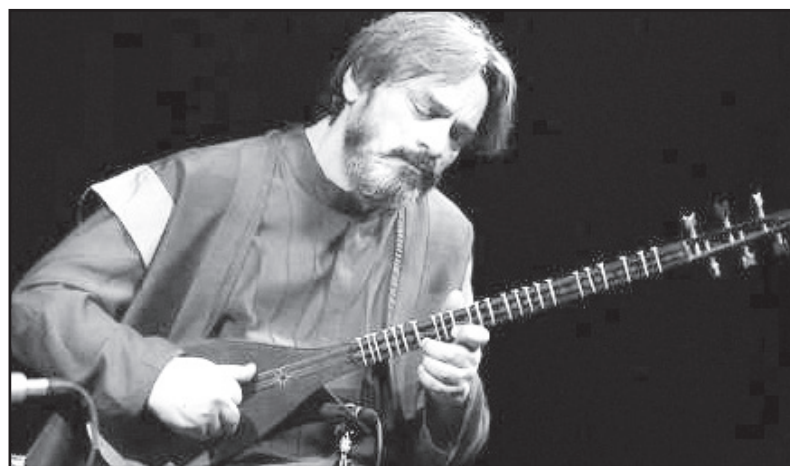
**19 solar years ago**, on this day in 1998 AD, Pakistan responded to a series of nuclear tests by India 17 days earlier with five of its own, codenamed Chagai-I. Pakistan celebrates this event every year as *"Youm-e Takbir"* or Day of God's Majesty. By conducting simultaneous atomic testing of the five nuclear devices, Pakistan became the seventh nuclear-armed power. Both India and Pakistan have refused to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

**9 solar years ago**, on this day in 2008 AD, the first meeting of the Constituent Assembly of Nepal formally declared the country a republic, thus ending the 240-year reign of the Hindu Shah dynasty. Islam, which accounts for some 10 percent of the country's 27 million population is the third but fastest growing religion in Nepal.

**9 solar years ago**, on this day in 2008 AD, Sheikh Hamad bin Isa, ruler of the repressive Aal-e Khalifa regime of the Persian Gulf island of Bahrain, in an affront to the long oppressed Bahraini majority, appointed Houda Ezra Nonoo, a Jewish woman of Iraqi descent, as Bahrain's ambassador to the US. Earlier in 2005, Hamad had appointed Ezra, who though born in Manama had grown up and educated in Britain, as member of the Majlis-e Shura or the local parliament. During her five years in Washington as Bahrain's ambassador, Houda Nonoo, promoted Zionist and Israeli interests and in violation of Islamic laws initiated mixed men-and-women Iftar gatherings in Ramadhan for breaking of the day's fast, much to the shock of American Muslims. Bahrain, which is currently in the grip of a popular uprising and with the support of the US and Saudi Arabia is brutally massacring members of the island's Shi'a Muslim majority, has granted nationality to some fifty Jews of Iraqi and Iranian descent, as well as thousands of Salafists from Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Egypt, Jordan and other parts, in a bid to change the country's demography.

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

# Iranian Musician Receives World Music Award



Iranian renowned musician Hossein Alizadeh.

TEHRAN (IRNA) – Iranian renowned musician Hossein Alizadeh has won World Music Award from World Music Cetner in South Korea.

Alizadeh is a composer, researcher, Tar and Setar instrumentalist who has so far been nominated for three Grammy Awards.

Composing several pieces of music for different Iranian movies, Alizadeh has also received various awards in the best sound track section of Fajr Film Festival.

Managing Director of music department in Culture and Islamic Guidance Ministry Farzad Talebi in a message on Saturday congratulated the Iranian artist on his victory.

## Massive Marine Reptile Species Found In Russia



Luskhan itilensis

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - The fossil of a body of the size of a bus, a large skull over five feet in size, enormous sharp, conical teeth and an equally powerful jaw, topped by a beak- or snout-like feature, and four large flippers has been found in Russia that is a new species of pliosaur.

Pliosaurus were large predatory marine reptiles that lived at the same time as dinosaurs, though they perhaps showed up somewhat later, with the oldest fossils being dated to about 135 million years ago. They had a body shape that was unique among marine vertebrates at the time (though it looks something along the lines of a duck-billed platypus), including stiff trunks and a large variation in neck lengths among different species.

The new species from Russia has been named Luskhan itilensis and was described and published in a paper. The fossil of L. itilensis was found in August 2002 on the right bank of the Volga River in Russia, close to the city of Ulyanovsk. Accordingly, the name given to it means "master spirit from the Volga."

"This is the most striking feature, as it suggests that pliosaurs colonized a much wider range of ecological niches than previously assumed," Valentin Fischer of the Université de Liège, Belgium and lead author of the paper, said in a statement.

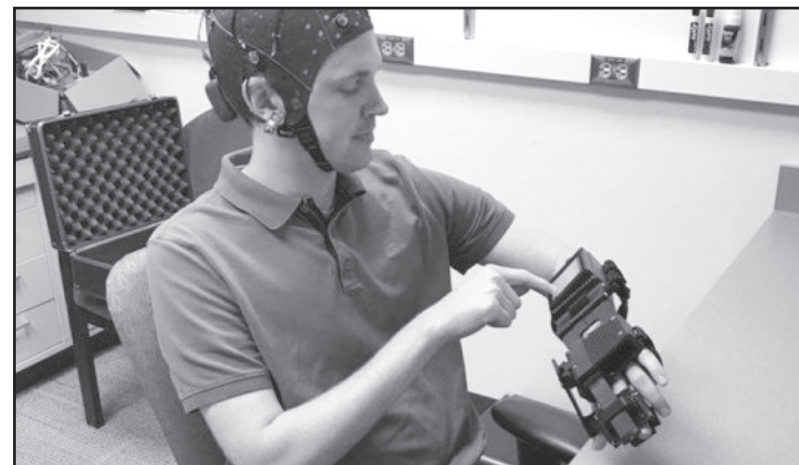
## Device Reads Brain, Converts to Motion

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Stroke patients who learned to use their minds to open and close a plastic brace fitted over their paralyzed hands gained some ability to control their own hands when they were not wearing the brace, according to a new study from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

By mentally controlling the device with the help of a brain-computer interface, participants trained the uninjured parts of their brains to take over functions previously performed by injured areas of the brain, the researchers said.

"We have shown that a brain-computer interface using the uninjured hemisphere can achieve meaningful recovery in chronic stroke patients," said Eric Leuthardt, MD, a professor of neurosurgery, of biomedical engineering, and of mechanical engineering & applied science, and the study's co-senior author.

"We chose to evaluate the device in patients who had their first stroke six months or more in the past because not a lot



Medical resident Jarod Roland, MD, tries out a device that detects electrical activity in his brain and causes his hand to open and close in response to brain signals. Credit: Leuthardt lab

of gains are happening by that point," said co-senior author Thy Huskey, MD, an associate professor of neurology at the School of Medicine and program director of the Stroke Rehabilitation Center of Excellence at The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis. "Some lose motivation. But we need to continue working on finding technology to help this neglected patient population."

The Ipsihand, a device developed by Washington University scientists, comprises a cap that contains electrodes to detect electrical signals in the brain, a computer that ampli-

fies the signals, and a movable brace that fits over the paralyzed hand. The device detects the wearer's intention to open or close the paralyzed hand, and moves the hand in a pincer-like grip, with the second and third fingers bending to meet the thumb.

"Of course, there's a lot more to using your arms and hands than this, but being able to grasp and use your opposable thumb is very valuable," Huskey said. "Just because your arm isn't moving exactly as it was before, it's not worthless. We can still interact with the world with the weakened arm."

## Picture of the Day



Viper's bugloss is one of the medicinal herbs commonly used in Iran. Villagers in northern county of Astara, Gilan province, start reaping the herb in mid-spring.

Courtesy: Mehr News Agency