

## This Day in History

(April 16)

Today is Monday; 27th of the Iranian month of Farvardin 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 29th of the Islamic month of Rajab 1439 lunar hijri; and April 16, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**3475 solar years ago**, on this day in 1457 BC the Battle of Megiddo between Pharaoh Thutmose III of Egypt and a large Canaanite coalition under the King of Kadesh, occurred in Palestine. It is believed to be the first battle recorded in relative detail, and included the first recorded use of the composite bow and the first body count. All details come from Egyptian sources—primarily the hieroglyphic writings on the Hall of Annals in the Temple of Amun-Re at Karnak, Thebes (now Luxor), by the military scribe Tjaneni. The ancient Egyptian account gives the date of the battle as the 21st day of the first month of the third season of Year 23 of the reign of Thutmose III. It has been claimed that this was April 16, 1457 BC according to the Middle Chronology, although other sources place the battle in 1482 BC or 1479 BC. The Battle of Megiddo was an Egyptian victory and resulted in the rout of the Canaanite forces. Tell Megiddo or Har Megiddo, as it is called in Hebrew, was corrupted to “Armageddon” in the Greek translation of the Bible, and is associated with some crucial battles in history. It is supposed to be the site (although its authentication is open to doubt), of the last battle in the end times between the forces of good and evil. Of the two other crucial battles that took place in Megiddo, is the one fought in 609 BC between the Egyptians and the Israelites, in which Pharaoh Necho II while leading his army to fight the Babylonians in Syria, defeated the Kingdom of Judah and killed King Josiah, as recorded in the Old Testament. The last and the best-known Battle of Megiddo was in 1918 during the closing months of World War I when a British force made up of soldiers of different lands including Arabs and Indian Muslims, and led by General Edmund Allenby defeated the Ottoman Turks to seize control of Palestine.

**2483 solar years ago**, on this day in 465 BC, Ardashir I, or Artaxerxes I Longimanus (in Greek), formally declared Takht-e Jamshid as capital of the Achaemenian Empire. Founded half-a-century earlier in 515 by his grandfather, Darius I as the ceremonial capital, it was named Parsa (City of Persians or Persepolis in Greek). Ardashir specified that Susa or Shush will continue to remain the administrative capital of the Persian Empire, but in summer, because of the intense heat of the region, the administrative apparatus would move to Hamedan which has a milder climate.

**1289 lunar years ago**, on this day in 150 AH, Iranian Sunni Muslim Jurisprudent, Noman ibn Sabet ibn Zuta ibn Marzuban, known as Abu Hanifa, passed away in Baghdad. Born in Kufa in a family of Zoroastrian origin from Kabul, he learned the holy Qur’an and hadith, and after two years of incomplete study under Imam Ja’far Sadeq (AS), the 6th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), he founded a jurisprudential school of his own, known as Hanafi. Contrary to the clear definition of Ijtihad, based on the holy Qur’an and the genuine hadith of the Prophet, Abu Hanifa resorted to “qiyas” (analogy) regarding legal issues, despite warnings from Imam Sadeq (AS) that the first one to indulge in “qiyas” was Iblis the Satan.

**833 lunar years ago**, on this day in 606 AH, Atabek Arsalan Shah of Mosul, died. He had asserted independence from the Iran-based Seljuq Empire, and is famous for building the Madrasa Shafe’iyyah in the Iraqi city of Mosul.

**640 solar years ago**, on this day in 1378 AD, Mujahid Shah, the 3rd ruler of the Bahmani Sultanate of the Deccan (southern India) was assassinated in his capital Gulbarga after a rule of only three years by his jealous uncle, Daud Shah, who in turn was killed a month later on the orders of his niece Rouh Parwar Agha and replaced by her younger brother, Mohammad Shah II. The court language of the Bahmanis, who traced their origin to the pre-Islamic Iranian hero Bahman, was Persian, and they promoted Iranian culture, art and architecture.

**286 solar years ago**, on this day in 1732 AD, Shah Tahmasp II, the 10th and the last ruler of the Safavid Empire of Iran, was deposed and replaced by his infant son, Abbas III, by his powerful general, Nader Quli Khan Afshar, who four years later would dethrone the boy and crown himself Nader Shah. Tahmasp, who ruled for ten years, was the 3rd and only surviving son of Shah Sultan Hussain Safavi, having escaped the capital Isfahan on its fall and the surrender of his father to the Afghan rebels led by Mahmoud Ghilzai Hotaki. On reaching Tabriz in 1722, he established a government with the support of both the Sunni Muslims of the Caucasus and the Shi’ite Qizilbash tribes, while the rest of Iran was under occupation. By 1729 Tahmasp II managed to liberate most of Iran (from the Afghans, Ottomans and Russia), mainly due to the victories of Nader, while eleven of his brothers were murdered on a single day (Feb 8, 1925) in Isfahan by Mahmoud Hotaki. In 1740, after 8 years in prison in Sabzevar, he was murdered at the age of 36, along with his deposed son, Abbas III, by Reza Qoli Mirza, the eldest son of Nader Shah on the fear that the Iranian people, who greatly loved the Safavids, would rise up and restore them to the throne. The Safavids, who ruled Iran and parts of Iraq, Caucasus, Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bahrain, for two centuries and two score years, left a lasting legacy in religion, national identity, Persian culture, art, architecture, carpet-weaving and state affairs, that survives till this day.

**167 solar years ago**, on this day in 1850 AD, Marie Tussaud, French-English sculptor, who founded the Madame Tussauds Wax Museum in London, died. Born as Marie Grosholtz in 1760 in Strasbourg, France in a German family, on the death of her father, her widowed mother shifted with her to Bern, Switzerland, where she worked as housekeeper for Dr. Philippe Curtius, a physician who was skilled in wax modeling and who taught the young girl this unique art. After moving to Paris, she created her first wax sculpture in 1777 of the philosopher Voltaire. Other famous people she modeled at that time include Jean-Jacques Rousseau and the US statesman Benjamin Franklin. During the French Revolution she modeled many prominent victims. In 1795, she married Francois Tussaud and in 1802 went to London, on invitation from Paul Philidor, a magic lantern and phantasmagoria pioneer, to exhibit her work alongside his show. As a result of the Napoleonic Wars, she was unable to return to France. By 1835 she settled down in Baker Street where she set up her wax museum, one of whose main attractions was the Chamber of Horrors that included victims of the French Revolution and the newly created figures of murderers and other criminals. In 1842 she made a self-portrait which is now on display at the entrance of her museum.

**159 solar years ago**, on this day in 1859 AD, French writer Alexis de Tocqueville died in Cannes at the age of 54. His collected writings filled 17 volumes and included “Democracy in America” and “The Old Regime and the French Revolution”.

**129 solar years ago**, on this day in 1889 AD, British comedian and filmmaker, Charlie Chaplin, was born in London. He went to the US to work in films, but because of his critical films and sympathy with the poor and needy, he was deported and settled in Switzerland. His films, which are black-and-white comedies, ridicule the unequal social relations in the West. His famous films include “The Gold Rush”; “City Lights”; and “The Great Dictator” — on Adolf Hitler.

**71 solar years ago**, on this day in 1947 AD, US presidential advisor, Bernard Baruch, coined the term “Cold War” to describe relationship between the US and the USSR. Although, English author George Orwell had used “cold war” as a general term in his essay “You and the Atomic Bomb”, published October 19, 1945, its first use in the political context was by Baruch, who said in a speech: “Let us not be deceived: we are today in the midst of a cold war.” Newspaper reporter-columnist Walter Lippmann gave the term wide currency, with the book titled “The Cold War”.

**70 solar years ago**, on this day in 1948 AD, terrorist outfits set up by illegal Zionist migrants to Palestine, martyred 90 Palestinians and injured hundreds of others, while the British secretly worked to give control of Palestine to European Jews. The result was the mass murder of a large number of Muslims and their homelessness that culminated in the expulsion of 700,000 Palestinians from their homeland and the illegitimate birth of Israel on May 14, 1948.

**44 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1395 AH, Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Hadi Milani passed away in holy Mashhad. Born and educated in holy Najaf, he migrated to Iran and groomed scholars in various Islamic sciences. He established the Husaini Institute of Islamic Sciences, and wrote several books, including the 10-volume “Discourses on Imami Jurisprudence”.

**21 solar years ago**, on this day in 1997 AD, a gas capsule explosion led to a massive fire in Mena, resulting in the death of 343 Hajj pilgrims and injury to 1290 others. Some 70,000 tents were burnt. This incident was the second major fire in Mena after the December 1975 blaze

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

# Simorgh Int’l Festival Receives Over 800 Foreign Submissions



TEHRAN (Dispatches)-More than 800 foreign filmmakers have submitted their works to participate at the 9th edition

of the Simorgh International Festival in Tehran.

The films’ categories include animation, short film and fiction

each depicting the signs of health in individual and public lives in a world without limitation. The works focus on portraying this phenomenon in their arts beautifully and the selection committee of the event soon starts reviewing them to pick the bests.

The festival is comprised of five categories, namely theater, film, visual arts, literature and music.

So far, there is no announcement by the festival organizers for theatrical, visual arts, literal and musical submissions.

The film category only accepts films created by university

students on the theme of ‘Culture of Health’ in two sections of short films and animations.

Organized by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, the festival brings together students from across the globe and provides them the opportunity to share their interests and concerns about health issues.

The festival is named Simorgh after the legendary bird in Iranian mythology which is the symbol of medicine in Iran.

The 9th edition of the Simorgh International Festival is rescheduled for May 3-10, 2018, in Tehran.

## Jean-Pierre Léaud Guest at 2018 Fajr Film Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) —French actor Jean-Pierre Léaud, best known for Francois Truffaut’s 400 Blows and Jean Luc Godard’s Masculin Feminin, is heading his way to help celebrate the 36th edition of Fajr International Film Festival in Tehran.

The French actor’s career has gone hand in hand with the great directors of the French New Wave, but he has remained a compelling and continuing presence long after that movement ended. He has influenced a further generation of French directors, as well as filmmakers from other cultures, and he is attending this year’s Fajr to share some of his experiences with filmmakers and fans.

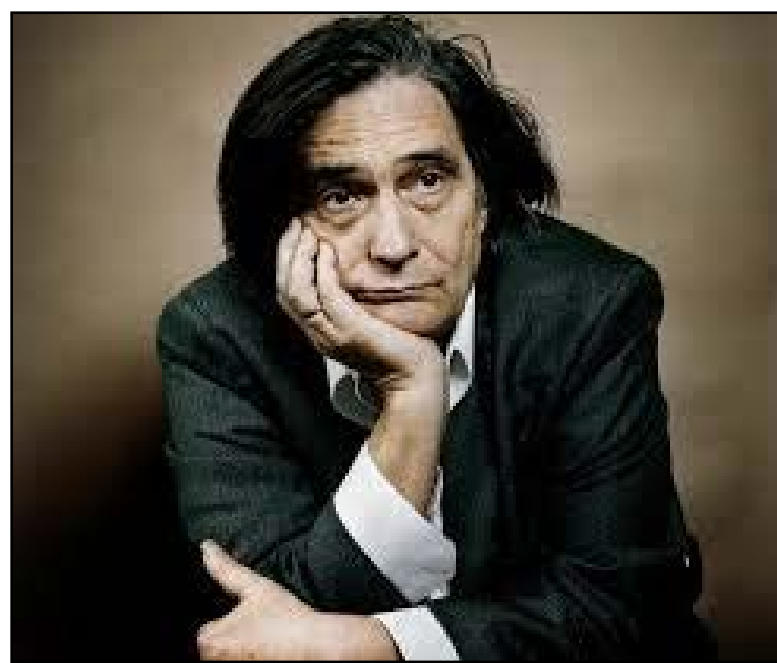
Jean-Pierre Léaud (born 28 May 1944) is a French actor, best known for playing Antoine Doinel in François Truffaut’s series of films about that character, beginning with The 400 Blows. He also

worked several times with Jean-Luc Godard, and is a significant figure of the French New Wave. Léaud is not everybody’s cup of tea for sure, but will remain an important name in film history.

As an actor he can be adored or hated for exactly the same reasons: he is one of those rare players that directors let improvise his dialogue, which gets on certain viewers’ nerves while it fascinates others. The same is true for his very personal staccato diction and elocution and his many mannerisms, the most obvious one being his way to run his hand through his long hair.

Presided over by Iranian film writer and director Reza Mirkarimi, the 36th edition of Fajr International Film Festival will be held in Tehran on April 19-27.

The festival is set to welcome over 300 special guests to this year’s edition, ranging from



French actor Jean-Pierre Léaud.

filmmakers to screenwriters, actors to activists. A host of A-list actors will attend, including legendary

Italian actor Franco Nero and influential American film director Oliver Stone.

## Iran TV to Air ‘Satan’s Meeting’

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran state TV has scheduled to broadcast the Iranian film “Satan’s Meeting” on the anniversary of the Daesh

terrorist attack on targets in the Iranian capital, Tehran.

The political-action drama is directed and written by Reza Khademalhosseini and it depicts Daesh terrorist group’s crimes in Iran and around the globe.

The movie, shot in Germany,

Britain and Iran, depicts the story of a flight security officer, who on a flight to Europe learns about Daesh attacks on Iran’s parliament and the mausoleum of the late founder of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini. Therefore, he volunteers to join anti-terrorism forces to

defend against Daesh threats. His first mission is to assassinate Daesh mastermind, Abu-Shebal.

Hassan Assadi, Majid Moshiri, Nesa Aslani, Alireza Qarekhani, Mohsen Ranjbar, Iman Honarkar and Ali Amraei are on the film’s cast list.

## First Brazil-Iran Tourist Airline Launched

TEHRAN (ISNA) - The first Brazil-Iran tourist airline has been launched.

“This is the first tourist airline on this route that has been launched for the first time through which 62 Brazilian tourists with 14 crew members on board traveled to Iran by a private British plane,” said Iranian tour organizer Ebrahim Pourfaraj.

“The plane arrived in Iran on Friday (April 13th) after having stops in Japan, China and India. After a four-day stop in the Fars Province, this plane will leave Iran for Italy, Morocco and finally it be will back in Brazil,” he added.

This is a special, one-way tourist airline to Iran which is being organized by two Iranian and Brazilian tourist agencies. This flight is scheduled to continue and will probably bring tourists to Iran twice a year.

## Picture of the Day



Local fishermen are catching fish in the Caspian Sea in northern Iran.

Courtesy: IRNA