

This Day in History

(April 25)

Today is Wednesday; 5th of the Iranian month of Ordibehesht 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 8th of the Islamic month of Sha'ban 1439 lunar hijri; and April 25, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

2422 solar years ago, on this day in 404 BC, the armies of the Greek state of Sparta and its allies, led by General Lysander, decisively defeated the Athenians, thus ending the 27-year long Peloponnesian War against Athens that had gradually grown into an empire following the Iranian withdrawal from southwestern Europe.

1243 solar years ago, on this day in 775 AD, the Battle of Bagrevand resulted in the decisive crushing of the year-long Armenian rebellion against the Abbasid Caliphate, thanks to an elite force of 30,000 Iranians from Khorasan under Amir ibn Isma'il, following the failure of the Arab governor Hassan ibn Qahtaba to pacify the situation. As a result, Muslim control over Transcaucasia was solidified, while several major Armenian families lost power and fled to the Byzantine Empire.

878 lunar years ago, on this day in 561 AH, the Spanish Muslim hadith scholar, botanist, and pharmacist, Abu Abbas Ahmad Ibn Muhammad Ibn Mufarraj an-Nabati was born in Seville. He is often called Ibn Rumiya, which means son of a lady who was Christian before her conversion to Islam. Initially, he studied in Andalusia, learning the features of different plant species, and later traveled to different countries such as Egypt, Iraq, and Hijaz, to study plants, while also acquiring the science of Hadith. He wrote an account of his journey, "*Kitab ar-Rihla*", which deals primarily with his observations of plants and medicinal properties. He has left behind numerous books in botany, theology, and hadith. Some of his works are still used by researchers.

804 solar years ago, on this day in 1214 AD, Louis IX of France was born. He has earned lasting notoriety for his enmity towards Islam and invasion of Egypt, as part of the 7th crusade, in league with the Buddhist Mongols, who were ravaging Iran and the Muslim World from the east. In 1249, he occupied Damietta and advanced towards Cairo via the Nile Delta. After initial success against the tottering Ayyubid dynasty, he was decisively defeated by the Mamluk-led resurgent Muslim forces at the Battle of Fareskur in 1250, losing 30,000 French and other European soldiers.

While trying to flee, he was captured along with his brothers, Charles d'Anjou and Alphonse de Poitiers, and confined in the house of Ibrahim Ibn Loqman, under the care of the eunuch, Sobih. Louis IX was ransomed for 400,000 dinars – a third of France's total annual revenues those days. After pledging not to return to Egypt, the French king surrendered Damietta and left with his brothers and 12,000 war prisoners whom the Egyptian Muslims agreed to release. The Battle became a source of inspiration for Muslim writers and poets. Louis IX, as an avowed enemy of Islam and Muslims, mobilised the 8th Crusade and in 1270 invaded Tunis along with his brother, Charles of Anjou, and Prince Edward of England, to use it as a base for attacking other Muslim lands, and Palestine if possible. However, disease and dysentery broke out in the camps of the Christians, and many died including the French king himself on 25 August, thereby aborting the Crusade.

428 solar years ago, on this day in 1590 AD, the Sultan of Morocco launched his successful attack to capture Timbuktu. Morocco sent 4,000 soldiers under the Spanish Muslim general, Judar Pasha, to conquer Songhai. After a five month journey across the Sahara, Pasha arrived with only 1,000 men, but his soldiers carried guns. The 25,000 men of the Songhai were no match for the guns and Gao, Timbuktu and most of Songhai fell.

302 lunar years ago, on this day in 1137 AH, Mahmoud Ghilzai Hotaki, the Afghan occupier of Iran, who brutally slaughtered 39 family members of the deposed Safavid monarch, Shah Sultan Hussain, including 11 princes, was killed by his cousin, Ashraf Hotaki. Mahmoud had seized control of the Persian Empire three years earlier following the Battle of Gulnabad. Ashraf, now styled himself king, until he was defeated in battle some four years later by Nader Quli Afshar, the commander of the army of the last Safavid king, Shah Taspasp II. The 7-year Afghan occupation of Iran was a period of great chaos during which the occupiers destroyed over 500 public baths, schools, mosques and libraries. Among the crimes of Ashraf Hotaki is the martyrdom of Shah Sultan Hussain Safavi.

274 solar years ago, on this day in 1744 AD, Swedish astronomer, Anders Celsius, died at the age of 43. He is famous for the temperature scale he developed.

159 solar years ago, on this day in 1859 AD, ground was broken for the Suez Canal in Egypt. The first blow of the pickaxe was given by Ferdinand Vicomte de Lesseps at Port Sa'id. It was built to link the Mediterranean and the Red seas, and opened on 17th November 1869, thus materializing the age-old dreams of the Pharaohs, Emperor Darius I of the Persian Empire, the Fatemids, the Mamluks, and the Ottomans.

137 solar years ago, on this day in 1881 AD, 250,000 Germans petitioned to bar foreign Jews from entering Germany because of their treason against Prophet Jesus and the slandering of his Virgin Mother, Mary, in addition to their fleecing of Christians of money through usury.

144 solar years ago, on this day in 1874 AD, Italian electrical engineer, Marchese Guglielmo Marconi, who invented the wireless telegraph (in 1935), known today as radio, was born.

120 solar years ago, on this in 1898 AD, the US declared war on Spain by deceitfully blowing up its own ship "Maine" in the Havana harbor of Spanish ruled Cuba. The war lasted four years during which the US occupied the Spanish possessions of Cuba, Philippines and Guam Island.

103 solar years ago, on this day in 1915 AD, during World War I, the Battle of Gallipoli began when the Peninsula of the same name in Turkey was invaded by a joint force of British, French, Australian, and New Zealand troops. The aim was to capture the Ottoman capital, Istanbul and join it with Greece, but ended in a major failure for the Allied forces who withdrew on 9 January 1916. It was one of the major Ottoman victories during World War I. In Turkey, it is regarded as a defining moment in the nation's history.

47 solar years ago, on this day in 1971 AD, as part of public protests in the US against the war in Vietnam, over 200,000 Americans staged anti-war demonstrations in Washington against the administration's military policies.

44 solar years ago, on this day in 1974 AD, a leftist military coup known as the Carnation Revolution, overthrew the fascist Estado Novo regime of Portugal. Marshal Antonio de Spínola was named head of state by a 7-member military junta. The Portugal changed from an authoritarian dictatorship to a democracy after two years of a transitional period known as PREC (Processo Revolucionário Em Curso), characterized by power dispute between left and right wing parties.

38 solar years ago, on this day in 1980 AD, the stealth US military attack on Iran with a number of choppers and planes, floundered in the sands of Tabas in the northeastern parts of the country in the dead of night, as desert sands miraculously swirled to blind and confuse the pilots, resulting in confusion and collision amongst the US aircraft. Soon there were huge flames all around as the aircraft were reduced to ashes and American soldiers turned into charred bodies, without the Muslim nation of Iran knowing what was really happening. It was indeed heavenly help for the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the panicked Americans fled the country leaving behind burned machines and dead bodies. The well-rehearsed invasion shattered President Jimmy Carter's plan for re-election by freeing the US spies being held in the Den of Spies in Tehran, as the American embassy had become. On the humiliating military failure of the US, the Father of Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA) noted now that the Great Satan conducted an absurd act, and the courageous Iranian nation should get prepared for a confrontation with the foes with reliance upon God's Infinite Power.

22 solar years ago, on this day in 1994 AD, two Catholic Hutu Nuns in Rwanda ordered some 600 frightened Tutsis out of their Benedictine compound into the hands of Hutu soldiers, who promptly massacred them. In 1997 the Nuns, Gertrude Consolata Mukangango and Maria Kisito Juliene Makubutera, having escaped to Belgium, were put on trial on the basis of eyewitness accounts. In 2001 they were convicted, and let off with light sentences, despite their complicity in mass murder. Gertrude was sentenced to 15 years in prison and Kisito to 12 years.

4 solar years ago, on this day in 2013 AD, Iranian novelist and prominent literary figure, Amir Hussain Fardi, who for 31 long years was chief-editor of the children's magazine "*Kayhan-e Bachaha*", passed away at the age of 64. Born in Ardabil, he was active during the Islamic Revolution, and took major steps in promotion of the Literature of the Islamic Revolution, as well as grooming of talented writers. His works include "*Nest in the Fog*" and "*Imam Khomeini*".

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

Takhti's Life Goes On Screen

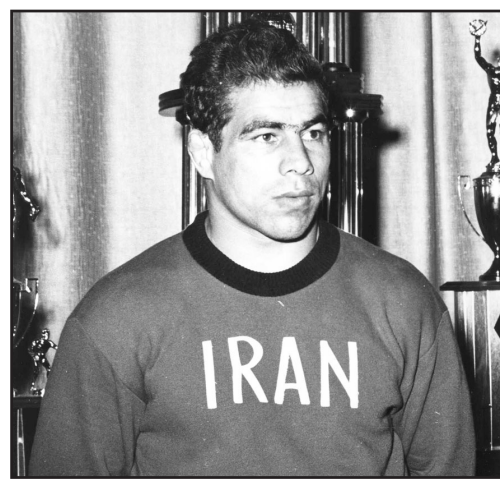
TEHRAN (IFILM) - A new bio-pic is set to depict the life of Iranian champion and wrestler Gholamreza Takhti.

The new project is planned to be directed by Bahram Tavakoli and produced by Saeed Malekan.

The two cineasts's latest project has been 'The lost strait', which won several awards at the 36th Fajr Film Festival.

The script for the new flick is written and soon the locations for filming the project will be determined.

Gholamreza Takhti was born in Tehran on Au-

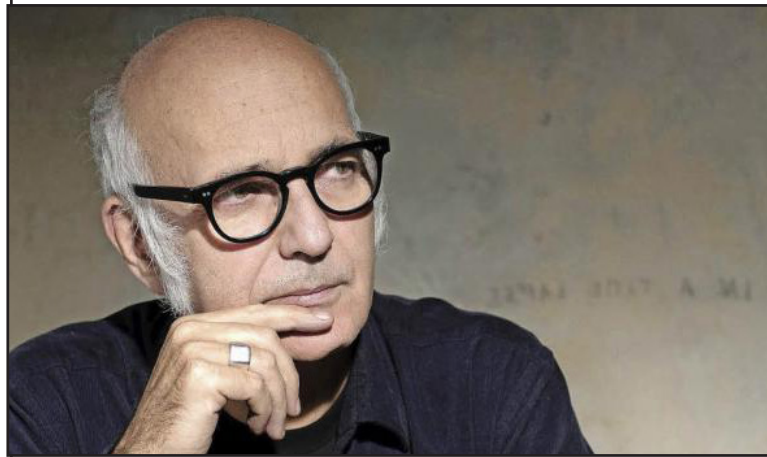


gust 27, 1930. At the age of 15, he enrolled in Poulad club in southern Tehran and was trained to become a wrestler.

Takhti won his first Iranian championship in 1950 and later in 1951 he won a silver medal at the world freestyle championship in Helsinki. That was the first international medal ever gained by an Iranian wrestler.

He won several other medals but that is not the only reason why he is so famous and popular. He proved to be a real hero by showing such exemplary character as to being of any sort of help to the poor and needy.

Italian Composer Einaudi Says Follows Heart to Create Music



Italian composer Ludovico Einaudi.

TEHRAN (MNA) - Award-winning Italian composer Ludovico Einaudi, who is scheduled for three shows in Tehran starting Tue., says he follows his heart in creating

music, citing 'luck' as the factor that his passion aligned itself with something that a lot of people like.

The first thing that you should know about Ludovico Einaudi's

music is that it is the kind of music that reflects the man himself. "I love new experiences," he says with sincerity, and he does not need more proof to back up that claim other than his mere presence in Tehran. A place which, although a mere 2,120 miles away from his homeland, accounting for a 4-hour flight and a 2:30 hour of time difference, is always considered as an adventurous tourist spot, because of lack of representation, an abundance of misrepresentation and the usual case of 'I put off visiting Iran until I am old enough to fully appreciate its ancient history'.

But he is here now, for the very first time, scheduled for three sold-out shows at a venue large enough to house over 2,000 peo-

ple, and he is excited to tour the city and meet his Iranian fans; "I know that I have a large fan base here in Iran, waiting for my performances. This is actually the main reason why I'm here today, because I know it is very difficult for many people to travel around to watch the live performances of their favorite musicians, so here I am bringing my music to them," he says during a Q&A panel on Monday at the Interior Ministry Hall, where he and his five-man band will go on stage on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday night.

"Music is a fantastic way to communicate with other people around the world, because it's one of the few languages that don't need translation. Music speaks from heart to heart."

TIBF to Unveil 'A Sweet Jam' in Serbian

TEHRAN (IBNA) - Director of Candle and Fog Publishing in Tehran said the Serbian version of "A Sweet Jam" by the noted Iranian writer Houshang Moradi Kermani will be unveiled at the 31st Tehran International Book Fair.

In an interview with IBNA, Afshin Shahneh-Tabar stated that the book is translated by Sara Jovanovich into Serbian and is scheduled to be unveiled at a ceremony to be attended by Serbian Cultural Attaché in Iran, Houshang Moradi Kermani and Ms. Jovanovich at 31st Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF).

Shahneh-Tabar further said that the French translation of "Believe it or not", one of the other books by Moradi Kermani will be introduced at this year's program of the literature of nations in Paris.

"Moreover, "The Tale of That Vat" is being translated into German and will be presented at 2018 Vienna International Book Fair," Director of Candle and Fog Publishing added.

Internationally known for his fiction books addressing children and young adults, the works of Houshang Moradi Kermani have been translated into English, French, German, Spanish, Dutch, Greek, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Armenian and Turkish. Eight translated books of Moradi Kermani are available through Amazon for purchase.

New Hope For World's Wildlife, Wild Places

ONTARIO (Dispatches) -- A new article finds that the enormous trends toward population stabilization, poverty alleviation, and urbanization are rewriting the future of biodiversity conservation in the 21st century, offering new hope for the world's wildlife and wild places.

A new Wildlife Conservation Society (wcs) paper published in the journal BioScience finds that the enormous trends toward population stabilization, poverty alleviation, and urbanization are rewriting the future of biodiversity conservation in the 21st century, offering new hope for the world's wildlife and wild places.

The paper, written by Eric Sanderson, WCS Senior Conservation Ecologist; Joe Walston,

WCS Vice President for Field Conservation; and John Robinson, WCS Executive Vice President for Global Conservation, says that for the first time in the Anthropocene, the global demographic and economic trends that have resulted in unprecedented destruction of the environment are now creating the necessary conditions for a possible renaissance of nature.

Most people think that the population of people on Earth will always rise, but these authors point out that the demographic transition is already well underway. The rate of growth in global population has been dropping since the 1960s. They cite new demographic research that suggests the world population in

2100 could be as high as 12 billion or as low as 7 billion, fewer people than are alive today. The difference depends on actions we take today.

Good urbanization is key. Cities lead people to choose to have smaller families, and the increased income urbanites derive from working in town mean that people can choose to conserve nature, not destroy it, through choices about what they buy and how they live.

These considerations lead the authors to suggest that within our generation, or the generation to follow, if society makes the right moves now, there could be possibilities for rewilding unimaginable to previous generations of conservationists.

Picture of the Day



Shapouri House or Shapouri Pavilion and Garden is an early 20th-century Persian building and garden in the city of Shiraz, south of Iran.

Courtesy: Tasnim News Agency