

## This Day in History

(April 24)

Today is Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Ordibehesht 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 18<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Sha'ban 1440 lunar hijri; and April 24, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**3498 solar years ago**, on this day in 1479 BC, Thutmose III ascended the throne of Egypt as a year-old child on the death of his father Thutmose II, but power shifted to his stepmother and aunt Hatshepsut, who though a regent, effectively ruled for 22 years as the 5<sup>th</sup> Pharaoh of the 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty until her death. Thutmose III now assumed absolute power as the 6<sup>th</sup> Pharaoh and ruled for the next 32 years until his death and was succeeded by his son, Amenhotep II. Thutmose III created the largest empire Egypt had ever seen – from Niya in North Syria to the 4<sup>th</sup> Cataract of the River Nile in Nubia. In 1457 BC, he fought the Battle of Megiddo with a large Canaanite coalition under the King of Kadesh in Palestine. It is believed to be the first battle recorded in relative detail.

**1467 solar years ago**, on this day in 552 AD, the first systemized academy for writing and translating of books was set up in southwestern Iran in what is now Khuzestan by the Sassanid emperor, Khosrow I Anushirvan in the town of Gundishapur, established by Shapur I three centuries earlier.

**1119 lunar years ago**, on this day in 321 AH, renowned Arab lexicographer and poet, Mohammed ibn Hassan Ibn Durayd, passed away in Baghdad. The "Maqsurah", is his poetical masterpiece in praise of Ibn Mikal and his son. Another of his works is the "Kitab al-Ishitiqaq" on etymology. Ibn Durayd was a follower of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt and has written some beautiful poems on the unrivalled merits of Imam Ali (AS) and the other Infallible Imams.

**1114 lunar years ago**, on this day in 326 AH, Abu'l-Qasim Hussain ibn Rouh an-Nowbakhti, the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> Imam. His tomb in Baghdad is a 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-Fadhl an-Nowbakht, the son of Nowbakht Ahvazi 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 on whereabouts of the Prophet's 12<sup>th</sup> Infallible Heir.

**748 solar years ago**, on this day in 1271 AD, Venetian traveler, Marco Polo, started his journey to China at the age of 17 through Anatolia, Iran, and Turkestan, in the company of his father Nicolo and uncle Maffeo, after they had returned from a historic trip by an Italian to the court of the Mongol Emperor, Kublai Khan, in Khanbaliq (present day Beijing).

**708 solar years ago**, on this day in 1311 AD, General Malik Kafur returned to Delhi from his victorious campaign in the Deccan (southern India) and presented Sultan Ala od-Din, the second and greatest king of the short-lived Khalji Turko-Persian Dynasty of Northern India, 241 tonnes of gold, 20,000 horses, and 612 elephants laden with treasure, including the famous diamond "Koh-e Noor" (Mountain of Light), excavated at Golkandah. Originally a Hindu from Khambhat in Gujarat, western India, he was known as "Hazar-Dinari" (Thousand Dinar – the price paid for him by the Sultan), and on embracing Islam, rapidly rose to become an able general, who brought south India into the fold of the Muslim World, when Islamic faith was fast spreading in all directions – Russia, eastern Europe, West Africa and southeast Asia.

**473 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.

**288 solar years ago**, on this day in 1731 AD, British author Daniel Defoe died. His works include the novels "Robinson Crusoe," "Roxana" and the pamphlet "The Shortest Way with Dissenters."

**142 solar years ago**, on this day in 1877 AD, the Russian Empire declared war on the Ottoman Empire in alliance with the Christian communities of the Balkan Peninsula, and its troops entered Romania by crossing the Prut River. Fought in the Balkans and in the Caucasus for almost a year, the Russians, capitalizing on the weakness of the Ottomans, established control over the Black Sea and created new states in the Balkans. The Turks, despite some initial success, suffered heavily as a result of lack of defence strategy.

**116 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1324 AH, Iran's first parliament started work, as a result of the people's selfless struggles. 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 Mozaffar od-Din Shah. It was one of the most active parliaments during the Constitutional era, before deviation set in.

**103 solar years ago**, on this day in 1916 AD, Irish people started wide-scale protests against British occupation, following rise of the independence seeking Sinn Fein movement. The result was intense sectarian battles between the Christian sects of Protestants and Catholics. Sinn Fein was against the British policy of dividing Ireland into two parts – north and south. In 1922, Southern Ireland announced its independence as a republic, while Northern Ireland continued to remain under British rule, wracked by sectarian clashes.

**93 solar years ago**, on this day in 1926 AD, Head of the Persian Cossack (Qazzakh) officers in Iran, Reza Khan, was ordered by his British masters to crown himself as Shah and he chose the surname "Pahlavi", a year after toppling the Qajar king, Ahmad Shah.

**92 solar years ago**, on this day in 1927 AD, BCG vaccine to prevent tuberculosis was discovered by the two French physicians, Albert Calmette and Guerin. As a result, mortalities from this sickness dropped to a minimum across the world.

**79 solar years ago**, on this day in 1940 AD, the Radio Department was established in Iran, and Radio Tehran started airing domestic news and reports on the country's internal affairs. It was under supervision of the Ministry of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone. Five years later radio stations were set up in other major Iranian cities, to keep the public informed of local, national and international events. Following the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the radio network was widely expanded and became nationwide. Today a wide variety of programs are aired round-the-clock for Iranians, in addition to broadcasts in 32 foreign languages for the region and the world under auspices of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB).

**26 solar years ago**, on this day in 1993 AD, one of the prominent lecturers of Persian language in Pakistan, Dr. Mohammad Baqer, passed away in his homeland. He had obtained his PhD in Persian Language and Literature from the University of Punjab. He wrote numerous books in Persian, including "Tarikh-e Sassanian" on the History of the pre-Islamic Sassanid Dynasty, and "Farsi-Namah".

**6 solar years ago**, on this day in 2013 AD, an 8-storey building, the Rana Plaza, collapsed near Dhaka, Bangladesh, killing 1,129 people and injuring over 2,500 others.

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

# Fajr Festival Crystal Simorgh Goes to Ali Akbar Sadeghi



Ali Akbar Sadeghi, a globally acclaimed painter, animator, illustrator and installation artist, received the Crystal Simorgh of the 37th Fajr International Film Festival.

TEHRAN (MNA) - Ali Akbar Sadeghi, a globally acclaimed painter, animator, illustrator and installation artist, received the Crystal Simorgh

of the 37th Fajr International Film Festival.

The special event was attended by Ebrahim Haghghi, Aydin Aghdashloo, Ebrahim Forouzes, Mohammad Sarir, Head of Farabi Cinema Foundation Alireza Tabesh, Tehran City Council Member Ahmad Masjed Jamei, Mohamamd Reza Saremi, Reza Kianian, Fatemeh Motamed-Aria, and Houshang Golmakani in Charsou Cineplex on Monday.

Some of Sadeghi's animations and illustrations were also screened at the ceremony.

Addressing the ceremony, world-renowned Iranian painter, graphist, and film critic Aydin Aghdashloo said Sadeghi has inherited the ancient Iranian art. This happened because of his own passion and mastery in the field. No other Iranian

artist can take his place to represent and embody ancient Iranian art and culture, especially the art goes back to Ferdowsi's Book of Kings or Shahnameh. No one can take his place.

After receiving the Crystal Simorgh, Akbari thanked Festival Director Reza Mirkarimi and colleagues for organizing the special event for him.

The festival also paid homage to Sadeghi by screening a selection of his work, including Seven Cities (1971), Rook (1971), Flower Storm (1972), Boasting (1973), The Sun King (1975), and Zal & Simorgh (1977), in the Classics Preserved section.

Presided over by writer and director Reza Mirkarimi, the 37th Fajr International Film Festival is underway in Tehran until April 26.

## Iran Animation 'Starvation' Competes at U.S. Festival

TEHRAN (IFILM) - The 2019 East Northeast International Film Festival (ENE) in the U.S. has set to screen Iranian short animation 'Starvation'.

Directed by Zahra Rostampour, the 7-minute animated piece offers a different point of view of the wolf as a villain in fairytale stories.

A hungry wolf gets stuck in stereotypes about being the big bad wolf of the story. She has to flee when everybody accuses her of violence and murder. She faces the danger of getting killed.

'Starvation' has so far gone on screen at a number of global events, including the 19th Monstra Lisbon Animated Film Festival in Portugal, the 14th



Athens Animfest in Greece, and the 7th DC Web Fest, the 2019 Queens World Film Festival, as well as the 28th

Arizona International Film Festival in the US.

Set to vie at the 2019 Ancey

Festival in France, the animation has won awards such as Best Film award at Short Competition section of the December 2018 Independent Talents International Film Festival.

Rostampour is a 2D animator and visual artist from Iran. She holds a degree in Animation Directing and has several years of professional experience in animation and motion graphic.

The ENE celebrates independent films, music, and the green technology industry all at the crossroads of the future to be a part of a diverse and creative global community.

The 2019 ENE is slated for August 23-September 2 in Newburgh, New York, the U.S.

## Azerbaijan National Library Grants 40 Books to Iran

TEHRAN (IBNA) - The National Library of Azerbaijan presented over 40 books, magazines and non-print sources to the National Library of Iran.

According to the public relations department of National Library and Archives Organization of Iran, in a new round of cooperation, the National Library of Azerbaijan granted 36 books, magazines as well as non-print sources to its Iranian counterpart.

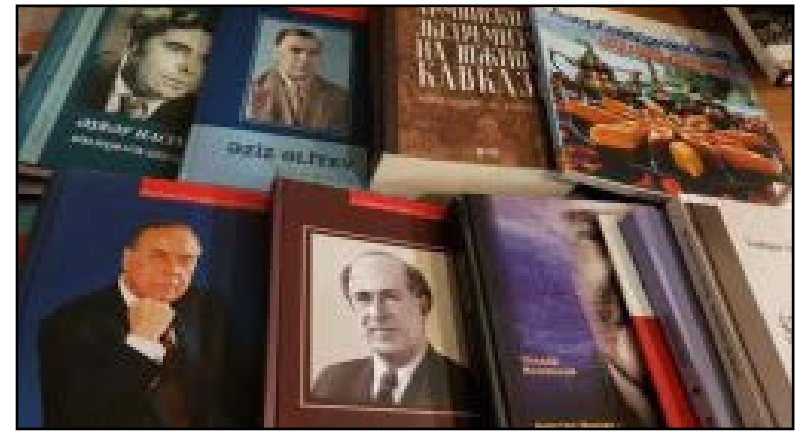
The National Library of Azerbaijan is a central state library of Azerbaijan, located in Baku and founded in 1922. It is named after Mirza Fatali Akhundov (Akhundzadeh), an Azerbaijani dramatist and philosopher who lived in Qajar era of Iran.

Its facades feature the statues of various writers and poets: Nezami

Ganjavi, Mahsati, Uzeyir Hajibeyov, Shota Rustaveli, Alexander Pushkin and several others.

The present National Library of Iran incorporates many different collections including many rare and valuable manuscripts. The central main branch is located in north-central Tehran.

The new building is specially designed to combine different faculties of the library in a single platform. The library by itself is over 90,000 square meters, the largest library campus in the Middle East.



## Picture of the Day



Directed by Parsa Pirouzfard, new play The Visit has gone on stage in the City Theater of Tehran until 21 May. The Visit is a 1956 tragicomic play by Swiss dramatist Friedrich Dürrenmatt.

Courtesy: Honaronline

## Researchers Find High-Risk Genes for Schizophrenia

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Using a unique computational 'framework' they developed, a team of scientist cyber-sleuths has identified 104 high-risk genes for schizophrenia.

Their discovery supports the view that schizophrenia is a developmental disease, one which potentially can be detected and treated even before the onset of symptoms.

One direction is to determine whether drugs already approved for other, unrelated diseases could be "repurposed" to improve the treatment of schizophrenia. Another is to find in which cell types in the brain these genes are active along the development trajectory.

Schizophrenia is a chronic, severe mental disorder characterized by hallucinations and delusions, "flat" emotional expression and cognitive difficulties. Symptoms usually start between the ages of 16 and 30. Antipsychotic medications can relieve symptoms but there is no cure for the disease.