

Sunday, April 2

ON THIS DAY



▲ **2005:** Pope John Paul II, spiritual leader of the world's 1.1 billion Catholics, died at the age of 84

1792: The first "silver dollar" of America's new currency was struck in Philadelphia

1905: The Simplon rail tunnel was opened, linking Switzerland and Italy

1979: Prime Minister Menachem Begin became the first Israeli leader to make an official visit to Egypt

2005: Riccardo Muti resigned as music director of La Scala opera house in Milan following months of discord that resulted in many cancelled performances