

## This Day in History

(October 21)

Today is Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Mehr 1393 solar hijri; corresponding to 26<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Zil-Hijjah 1435 lunar hijri; and October 21, 2014, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**918 solar years ago**, on this day in 1096 AD, Sultan Qilij Arsalan of the Seljuq Sultanate of Roum (Asia Minor), soundly defeated the first attempt by a large army of Christians of Western Europe to invade Muslim lands in the east. Known as the People's Crusade or the Peasants Crusade, a 40,000 strong force of thugs, robbers and killers from France, Germany, Italy and other lands marched overland towards and through the Byzantine territories, pillaging, killing, and robbing towns that lay in their path. The main reason for this military march of the marauders, calling themselves 'pilgrims to Palestine' was drought, famine, and plague afflicting France and Germany for many years, and most of them seemed to have envisioned the crusade as an escape from these hardships. The trek to the east started in April 1096 and the first victims of these killers were the Jews that had ventured out of the safety of Muslim lands to settle among Christians. Some 4,000 Jewish men, women and children were slaughtered, while the remaining were driven to suicide or forced to convert to Christianity. Then they killed 4,000 Hungarian Christians living under the jurisdiction of the Byzantine Empire, a crime that brought swift wrath upon them from the emperor's forces who massacred 10,000 of these marauding crusaders. The Byzantines then thought of a plan to use them against the Turks and transported the remaining 30,000 Germans, French, and Italians to Asia Minor. Here, near the village of Dracon, in what is now southwestern Turkey, these crusaders were completely routed by the Muslim defenders, and of those captured and wished to remain alive, Sultan Qilij Arsalan spared their life on condition of becoming Muslims and sent them to distant Khorasan in northeastern Iran.

**917 solar years ago**, on this day in 1097 AD, the first organized Crusade made up of Christian knights and experienced warriors under the joint command of Godfrey of Bouillon, Bohemund of Taranto, and Raymond IV of Toulouse, began the siege of the Syrian city of Antioch, which is now in Turkey. This military expedition led by Catholic Europe was organized by Pope Urban II with the goal of responding to an appeal from Byzantine Emperor Alexios I Komnenos, who requested that west European Christians come to his aid to fight the Seljuq Sultanate of Asia Minor. The organized force caught the Muslims by surprise and besieged Antioch, which fell to them some 8 months later, because of the over-confidence of the Turkish defenders, who viewed this batch of experienced warriors as another of the Peasants' Army that they had defeated a year earlier. In brief, the Crusader invaders marched south along the coast, occupying several cities, and in 1099 seized the Islamic holy city of Bayt al-Moqaddas from the Ismaili Shi'ite Fatemid Dynasty of Egypt-North Africa, massacring some 70,000 Muslim men, women and children, including local Christians and Jews.

**876 lunar years ago**, on this day in 559 AH, the religious scholar and literary figure, Abu'l-Fazael Amedi, was born in the Iraqi city of Wasit. In Baghdad he mastered theology, jurisprudence, literature, and mathematics. He was an excellent poet and passed away in his hometown at the age of 49.

**686 solar years ago**, on this day in 1328 AD, Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang, the founder of the Ming Dynasty (in 1368), who liberated China from the rule of the Mongol Yuan Dynasty, was born in a peasant family. Also known as Hongwu, he rose to command the forces that seized the Mongol capital Khanbaliq (modern Beijing). During his 30-year rule, he transformed China into a major power, and although born a Buddhist, he embraced the Confucian doctrine, and showed inclination towards Islam. He ordered the construction of several mosques in Nanjing, Yunnan, Guangdong, Xijing and Fujian, and had inscriptions praising Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) placed in them. He rebuilt the Jinjue Mosque in his capital Nanjing, and large numbers of the Muslim Hui people moved to the city during his rule. He had some ten Muslim generals in his military, including Chang Yuchun, Lan Yu, Ding Dexing, Mu Ying, Feng Sheng and Hu Dahai. He personally wrote a 100-word praise (baizizan) on Islam, Allah and the Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

**224 solar years ago**, on this day in 1790 AD, French poet, Alphonse de Lamartine, was born. He is famous in regard to poetic delicacy and his major book is "Poetic Imaginations". He traveled to the east and stayed a while in Beirut, and later penned a book titled Eastern Journey. He died in 1869.

**209 solar years ago**, on this day in 1805 AD, the Battle of Trafalgar took place near the Strait of Gibraltar, in which the British fleet, commanded by Horatio Nelson, defeated the combined French-Spanish fleet off the coast of Spain under Admiral Villeneuve. It signaled the end of French maritime power and left Britain's navy unchallenged until the 20th century. Though Nelson died in the battle, this was the first major defeat for French Emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte.

**181 solar years ago**, on this day in 1833 AD, Swedish chemist and inventor of dynamite, Alfred Nobel, was born. He invented dynamite for the purpose of exploration. Contrary to his expectations, when European powers used dynamite in wars, which led to the massacre of a large number of people, Nobel resented the misuse of his invention, allocated all his wealth to a peace prize. He intended to hand over this prize to those who render valuable services in literary and scientific domains, and in regard to promotion of global peace. But, in violation of his wishes, today the Nobel Peace Prize has been politicized and turned into a means for promotion of the West's domineering, divisive, exploitative and murderous policies.

**36 solar years ago**, on this day in 1978 AD, workers and personnel of Iran's oil industry went on a nationwide strike against the Shah's despotic regime. As a result, Iran's oil exports came to a halt, depriving the regime of its most important revenues. Moreover, the severance of Iran's oil exports led to sharp oil price hikes. The Shah's regime through its scaremongering policies, tried to force the oil industry workers to return to their jobs, but they refused to do so. The strike of Iran's oil industry personnel continued until the ouster of the British-installed and US-backed Shah, thanks to the people's revolutionary zeal and their tolerance of oil shortages.

**28 solar years ago**, on this day in 1986 AD, the commander of Palestine's naval units, Brigadier General Mundhir Abu-Ghazalah, was assassinated by terrorists of the Zionist regime's spying agency, Mossad, through a car bomb blast in Athens, Greece.

**27 solar years ago**, on this day in 1987 AD, Indian 'Peace-keeping Forces' attacked Jaffna Hospital in Sri Lanka, massacring 70 ethnic Tamil patients, doctors and nurses.

(Courtesy: IRIB English Radio - <http://english.irib.ir>)

# 'Parvaneh' Nominated for World Best Game Title



Iranian-made electronic game 'Parvaneh' wallpaper

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian-made electronic game 'Parvaneh' has been nominated for world's best game of the year title.

The game has recently named Game of the Year in 4th Computer Games Festival. French Game Connection nominated Parvaneh (Persian for 'butterfly'). French festival is one of the most prestigious international game festivals and fair. Parvaneh was also nominated for titles in Belgrade's

Casual Connect and US Game Connection events in 2014.

Berdedbird Studios has sold 85,000 copies of the game; with further 50,000 copies to be marketed this week.

Parvaneh has won many titles; notably among them are 7 Golden Gazelles of the Game of the Year, Best Adventure Action, Best Audio Effects, Best Design, Best Music, Best 3D Art, and Best Cinematic Achievement.

## House of Literati to Host Russia Studies in Iran Meeting

TEHRAN (IBNA) - The House of Literati affiliated to Iran's Book House played host to Russia Studies in Iran Meeting: 200 Years After Writing 'Dalil al-sofara' on Sunday, October 19.

The meeting was centered on the book, 'Dalil al-Sofara' by Mirza Abu'l-Hasan Khan Shirazi known as "Ilchi" which represents an Iranian portrayal of Russians.

Mirza Abu'l-Hasan Khan Shirazi who was the Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1824 to 1834, and then again from 1838 until his death in 1846. He was also appointed as the am-

bassador to Russia and Great Britain.

The program was held by a number of experts such as Goudarz Ash-tiani (PhD); Amir Saeed Elahi and Mohsen Ja'fari Mazhab (PhD).

## Newcastle Mosque Open Day Attracts 400

LONDON (IQNA) - Newcastle Muslim Association has opened the doors to its Wallsend mosque, using conversation, clarity and cuisine as a way to forge stronger ties within the community.

Association spokesperson Diana Rah said the organization had not been expecting the more than 400 people who visited the mosque on Sunday.

"We were very grateful to them for coming out and getting to know us and allowing us to get to know them," she said.

Grand Mufti of Australia Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohamed spoke at the open day, which included an exhibition about Islam, a chance for men and women to try on traditional Islamic dress, mosque tours and a question and answer session.



Newcastle Mosque Open Day

Visitors were also invited to enjoy a barbecue, traditional homemade sweets and Saudi chai tea.

Ms Rah said the association had "long wanted" to host an open day.

"Our mosque has always had relationships with church and community groups, but we have noticed in recent times some negative reporting about Muslims and an esca-

lation of verbal attacks on Islamic women, of eggs, coffees and milkshakes being thrown at them from car windows," Ms Rah said.

"It's a very minuscule section of the community - on a whole Novocastrians can be proud of who they are.

"But we wanted to strengthen the existing relationships we have with the community and form new relationships - for everyone to get to know each other and for community harmony."

The association had earlier in the week presented certificates formally thanking six men who came to the aid of a Muslim mother and daughter, who were attacked on October 6 in an alleged bigoted tirade on Smith Street, in Newcastle West.

## Comic Museum in Brussels Marks 25 Years of High Art

BRUSSELS - (AFP) Comics are serious business in the land of Tintin and The Smurfs, and nowhere more so than in Europe's biggest and oldest museum dedicated to the art form as the venue celebrates its 25th birthday.

Enter the Belgium Comic Strip Center and you pass a giant model of the red and white moon rocket used by the ginger-quaffed boy detective, along with other life-size replicas from other famous comics.

Located in a stunning Art Nouveau warehouse in central Brussels, it's cleared that here comics, graphic novels, bands designees, call them what you will, and are more high art than popular culture.

But if anything, the challenge for the museum over the past quarter century is to make sure that things don't get too serious, and that the element of wonder that has drawn children to Tintin, Snowy and friends is not lost.

"In 2014 we're trying to support what comics have become. We don't want to get tied up in the idea that a museum has to be an art gallery," museum director Jean Auquier said at an event to mark the 25th anniversary.

A party to celebrate the big day drew a huge crowd of well-heeled members of Brussels high society, including a few surviving contemporaries of Tintin's legendary cre-

ator, Herge, who died in 1983.

But the museum is a major draw for tourists too - for many of whom comic strips are as much of a national symbol of Belgium as beer or chocolate - and is the country's seventh most visited monument.

It attracts 200,000 visitors a year, more than double the number who visit a new, dedicated Tintin museum in the leafy new university town of Louvain-la-Neuve.

## Spanish Version of Iran Novel 'Da' to Hit Book Market

TEHRAN (Press TV) - The best-selling Iranian novel Da written by Seyyed Azam Hosseini is slated to hit the bookstores in Spanish language.

The book is passing the last stages of translation and will be released until next year, said Head of Spanish department at Tehran's Art Bureau, Najmeh Shobeiri.

Da contains recollections by Seyyedeh Zahra Hosseini of the time when the Iraqi army captured Khorramshahr in the early days of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

The book narrates a true-to-life story of a teenager who experienced the early days of the war in Khorramshahr.

The English version of Hosseini's memoir has been recently unveiled during a ceremony at Tehran's Art Bureau.

The book was translated into English by the U.S. scholar Paul Sprachman under the title of One Woman's War: Da (Mother) published by Mazda Publishers in the United States.

Sprachman, along with the narrator of the book Zahra Sadat Hosseini and several officials and writers attended the unveiling ceremony in Tehran.

## Picture of the Day



Traditional and religious rituals welcoming the pilgrims from Hajj (an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca) - Mazandaran Province, Iran

Courtesy: MNA