

This Day in History

(October 21)

Today is Sunday, 29th of the Iranian month of Mehr 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 11th of the Islamic month of Safar 1440 lunar hijri; and October 21, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1683 solar years ago, on this day in 335 AD, Roman Emperor Constantine I, following his conversion to Christianity – the cult invented by Paul the Hellenized Jew and falsely attributed to Prophet Jesus (AS) – enacted rules against Jews. One of the laws stated that if a Jew buys and circumcises a Christian slave (or of any other sect), he shall on no account retain the circumcised in slavery, but he who suffered this shall acquire the privileges of liberty. It is forbidden for a Jew to harass or attack on anyone who converts to Christianity from Judaism. The insult should be punished according to the nature of the crime committed.

1402 lunar years ago, on this day and the subsequent night in 38 AH, the famous Battle of Laylat al-Harir took place during the War of Siffin, near Raqqa in Syria, when the army of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), pressed ahead with its decisive assault on the forces of the rebel, Mu'awiyya ibn Abu Sufyan, till the early morning hours. The Imam himself, with his flashing twin-bladed sword "Zulfeqar", dispatched over five hundred enemies of humanity to the bowels of hell, while his commander Malek Ashtar displayed feats of bravery to reach within striking distance of the camp of Mu'awiyya, who was about to flee. At this crucial stage, when victory was in sight, the crafty enemy commander Amr ibn Aas ordered his troops to raise on spear-points what he said were copies of the holy Qur'an, pleading for peace, a ruse which made a band of hypocrites or more properly "khwarej" or renegades, to force the Imam to cease fighting.

1019 lunar years ago, on this day in 421 AH, Sultan Mahmoud, the prominent ruler of the Ghaznavid Turkic dynasty who for 34 years ruled the eastern Iranian lands, died. He turned Ghazni into the capital of an extensive empire that covered most of today's eastern and southern Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, parts of Uzbekistan, as well as Northwest India. Despite his brutal nature, Mahmoud was a patron of arts and Persian poetry. He brought whole libraries from Rayy and Isfahan after raiding these Iranian cities. He demanded that the Khwarezmshahi court send its men of learning to Ghazni, such as Abu Rayhan Birouni, and Abu Ali ibn Sina. Birouni joined Mahmoud's court and accompanied him to India where he stayed, learned Sanskrit, and did valuable research on a wide variety of subjects such as astronomy, geology, anthropology, and history. Ibn Sina declined and fled to the Buwaihid courts in Rayy, Isfahan, and Hamedan.

939 lunar years ago, on this day in 501 AH, the prominent narrator of hadith, Ja'far ibn Hussain ibn Ahmad as-Sarraj, passed away in the city of Tyre in southern Lebanon at the age of 82. He was an expert in jurisprudence, Qur'anic sciences, Arabic grammar, and linguistics, and traveled to numerous lands including Egypt. He has left behind a collection of poems. His books include "Nizam al-Manasek".

922 solar years ago, on this day in 1096 AD, Sultan Qilij Arsalan of the Seljuq Sultanate of Roum (in Asia Minor), soundly defeated the first attempt by a large army of Christians of Western Europe to invade Muslim lands in the east.

921 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 Fatimid Dynasty of Egypt-North Africa, massacring some 70,000 Muslim men, women and children, including local Christians and Jews.

690 solar years ago, on this day in 1328 AD was born in a peasant family, Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang, who in 1368 established the Ming Dynasty and went on to liberate China from the rule of the Mongol Yuan Dynasty. 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 construction of several mosques in Nanjing, Yunnan, Guangdong, Xijing and Fujian, and had inscriptions praising the Prophet of Islam 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 (called baizhan) on Islam, Allah and Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

246 solar years ago, on this day in 1772 AD, English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge was born. He and his friend William Wordsworth were among the founders of the Romantic Movement in England and later identified, along with Robert Southey, as the Lake School of poets. Coleridge's work included "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner", "Frost at Midnight" and "Kubla Khan". In his later life he authored the "Bibliographia Literaria", a work of literary theory.

228 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.

213 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.

185 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 and 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 promote 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.

139 solar years ago, on this day in 1879 AD, Thomas A. Edison successfully demonstrated the first durable and commercially practical electric light bulb at his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey. This model lasted 40 hours before burning out.

60 lunar years ago, on this day in 1380 AH, Ayatollah Shaikh Mohammad Ali Ordujadi, the Source of Emulation for Muslims of Azarbaijan, the Caucasus and Soviet Union, passed away in holy Najaf. He wrote over 52 books, including the Arabic works "al-Qabasat fi Usoul ad-Din", "Manajej al-Yaqin", "ash-Shehab al-Mobin", "ash-Shuhub ath-Thaqeba", and "Rujoum ash-Shayatin".

40 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.

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

31 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.

23 solar years ago, on this day in 1995 AD, Iranian poet and scholar, Javad Qawwampour, passed away at the age of 77. Born in Semnan, he learned Islamic eschatology and has left a 2-volume collection of poems, titled "Niday-e Dil" (Voice of the Heart).

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

'Like a Good Kid' Competes at 2 Festivals



A still from the Iranian short film "Like a Good Kid".

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iranian short film "Like a Good Kid" directed by Arian Vazir Daftari has been accepted into the competition program of two festivals in Ireland and Albania.

"Like a Good Kid" will take part in the 29th Foyle Film Festival in Ireland, scheduled for 16-20 November 2018. The Foyle Film Festival enjoys BAFTA recognition since 2009.

Vazir Daftari's short film will also vie at the 16th Tirana International Film Festival in Albania, slated for 2-9 November 2018. Recipients of the Tirana International Film Festival Best Short Film will be eligible for

consideration in the Animated Short Film/Live Action Short Film category.

Directed by Arian Vazir Daftari and produced by Majid Barzegar, the film is about Sara who babysits Matin (a 6 year old boy) whilst his mother is a work. In the morning Matin tells Sara a story of a fight with his mother from the night before which puts in motion a series of events that will change Matin and Sara for the rest of their lives.

The 20-minute film had its international premiere at the Cinéfondation section of the 71st Cannes Film Festival.

Scientists Develop New Quantum Circuit

ONTARIO (Dispatches)- Quantum computers promise to revolutionize the future of computing. Scientists have now demonstrated for the first time that quantum computers do indeed offer advantages over conventional computers. They developed a quantum circuit that can solve a problem that is unsolvable using any equivalent classical circuit.

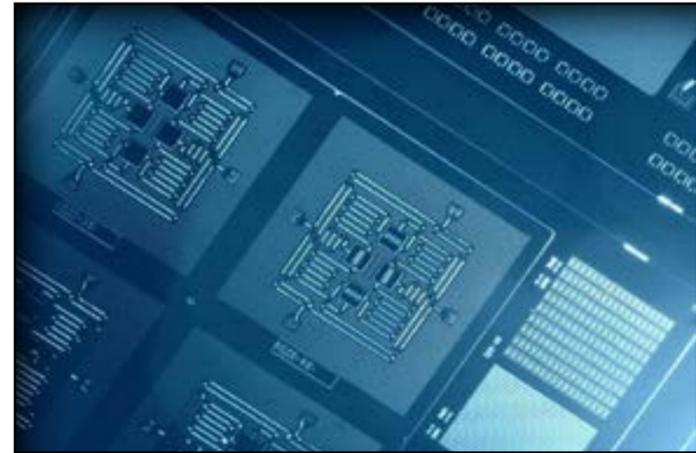
Conventional computers obey the laws of classical physics. They rely on the binary numbers 0 and 1. These numbers are stored and used for mathematical operations. In conventional memory units, each bit -- the smallest unit of information -- is represented by a microscopic dot on a microchip. Each of these dots can hold a charge that determines whether the bit is set to 1 or 0.

In a quantum computer, however, a bit can be both 0 and 1 at the same time. This is because the laws of quantum physics allow electrons to be in multiple places at one time. Quantum bits, or qubits, thus exist in multiple overlapping states. This so-called superposition allows quantum computers to perform operations on many values in one fell swoop whereas a single conventional computer typically must execute these operations sequentially. The promise of quantum computing lies in the ability to solve certain problems significantly faster.

Robert König, professor for the theory of complex quantum systems at the TUM, in collaboration with David Gosset from the Institute for Quantum Computing at the University of Waterloo and Sergey Bravyi from IBM have now conclusively demonstrated the advantage of quantum computers. To this end, they developed a quantum circuit that can solve a specific "difficult" algebraic problem. The new circuit has a simple structure: it only performs a fixed number of operations on each qubit. Such a circuit is referred to as having a constant depth. In their work, the researchers prove that the problem at hand cannot be solved using classical constant-depth circuits. They furthermore answer the question of why the quantum algorithm beats any comparable classical circuit: The quantum algorithm exploits the non-locality of

quantum physics.

Robert König considers the new results primarily as a contribution to complexity theory. "Our result shows that quantum information processing really does provide benefits -- without having to rely on unproven complexity-theoretic conjectures," he says. Beyond this, the work provides new milestones on the road to quantum computers. Because of its simple structure, the new quantum circuit is a candidate for a near-term experimental realization of quantum algorithms.



Layout of IBM's four superconducting quantum bit device. Credit: IBM Research.

'Blister' Wins Iraqi Slemani Festival



TEHRAN (IFILM)-The 3rd edition of the Slemani International Film Festival in Iraqi Kurdistan region has awarded Iranian short film "Blister".

"Blister" by Morteza Shams won the award for best short film at the Iraqi event.

In "Blister" a man hides his job from his wife but she wants to find out the truth, and it causes bigger problem.

The film's cast includes Paria Vaziri, Fereydoun Hamed, Homayoun Hejazi, Reza Shams-Vala, Taimaz Rezvani, Zahra Karimi, and Nahid Zare.

The Iraqi festival screened a number of Iranian films, including 'No Date, No Signature' by Vahid Jalilvand,

'Golnesa' by Sattar Chamani-Gol, "Alphabet" by Kianoush Abedi, "Balance" by Barzan Rostami, "Bystander" by Sheyda Kashi, "Take Me Home" by late director Abbas Kiarostami, and Iranian-Indian feature "Beyond the Clouds" by Majid Majidi.

The jury members of the Slemani International Film Festival presented 14 "Golden Pine" awards to the participating movies in international and Kurdish sections of the festival. Four of them went to Iranian productions.

The 3rd edition of the Slemani International Film Festival was held on October 10-16, 2018, in Sulaymaniyah, Iraqi Kurdistan.

Picture of the Day



An excellent collection of caricatures by contemporary artist Bozorgmehr Hosseinpour is on display in the Silk Road Gallery until 6 November. The show is dubbed A Caricaturist in Naser al-Din Shah Heram. Naser al-Din Shah Qajar (16 July 1831 – 1 May 1896) was the King of Persia from 5 September 1848 to 1 May 1896 when he was assassinated.

Courtesy: Honaronline