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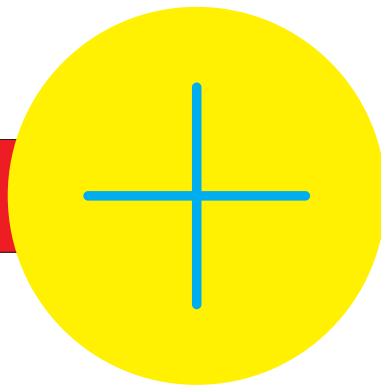
## Iran's animation 'Loopetou' could compete internationally: *Filmmaker*



Abbas Askari, the director of popular Iranian animation 'Loopetou' told to the media that the animated piece can compete with foreign cartoons. The director added that when the film could stay at the top of cinema's box office for over a month, then it has the ability to compete with foreign films, ifilmtv.ir reported.

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# National Tree Planting Day, an opportunity to respect the environment

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## EXCLUSIVE

A few days ago, early in the morning, as I was passing through a busy street, my eyes fell upon the trees that were beautifully arranged in the park located along the street. I was wondering, who had planted these trees and when? In the Iranian calendar, the 15th day of the month of Esfand, which corresponds with March 6th, is marked as Tree Planting Day. On this day, 15 days before the Iranian New Year, many people plant tree saplings in parks, forests and other areas of their cities and villages. The day also marks the beginning of the National Week of Natural Resources. Also known as Arbor Day, it is observed by many countries throughout the world, but its

date varies, depending on their climate and planting season. Each and every person should breathe and enjoy clean, fresh air, created by the trees, to live a healthy life. This is just one of the many benefits of trees, producing most of the oxygen that humans and wildlife breathe. Moreover, trees act as a natural flood defense, holding back water and slowing the flow. Trees also play a very important role in strengthening of the soil and providing the nutritional needs of human beings and many other creatures. However, the establishment of numerous industrial factories and manufacturing various types of vehicles, along with the development of science and technology have led to increased pollutants in the atmosphere, threatening the health of people living in cities, especially metropolises. It is said that in the past 100 years, 1.5 trillion trees have



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been cut worldwide. Experts believe that planting trees is considered to be a solution to the air pollution problem. On the other hand, Islam has encouraged people to plant trees and some outstanding religious figures have been involved in the action. Cutting down trees is strictly prohibited in Islam. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) ordered his soldiers to avoid cutting down trees after defeating the enemy. He said, "For me, breaking a tree branch is like breaking the wings of angels".

Meanwhile, historical documents show that ancient Persians used to hold special festivals in which they planted trees and respected the earth that fed them. Persians were among the first who started to preserve forests. Tree planting has been of interest in Iran since ancient times. Stone relief with the images of cypress trees can be seen in Persepolis in Fars Province, which was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire (550-330 BCE). Cypress, as an evergreen tree, has always been of special importance in

Iran. Besides, every Zoroastrian used to plant a tree sapling after the birth of his child. History shows that Iran has had numerous green gardens and green lands since ancient time. Pasargadae in Fars Province, a historical site dating back to Achaemenid Period, is the oldest Persian Garden in which there is an irrigation system using streams and ponds. Ferdowsi, a great 11th-century Persian poet, mentioned the gardens and meadows built around the Firouzabad Fire Temple.

According to Greek historians, about 3,000 years ago, most Persian houses were surrounded by gardens, referred to as pardis, from which the English word 'paradise' has been derived. Besides, we know that in many countries the life of a tree is as valuable as the life of a human being. If a tree is in the path of a road, it will be moved to another place to continue its life. Consequently, we should use Tree Planting Day as an opportunity to respect and revive our environment, or at least try to protect it more carefully.

## James Bond novels to be reissued with racial references removed

Ian Fleming's James Bond novels are to be reissued with a number of racial references removed and a disclaimer that the books might use terms of attitudes "considered offensive by modern readers". April marks 70 years since Casino Royale, Fleming's first book featuring British spy Bond, was published. To mark the occasion, a full set of the thrillers will be reissued. Ian Fleming Publications Ltd, which owns the rights to the author's work, employed sensitivity readers to look at the texts and make recommendations for changes. The changes include the removal of the N-word in almost all cases, and omitting references to the ethnicity of a number of minor characters, the Guardian wrote. The reissued books will also carry a disclaimer, according to the Telegraph, which will explain the changes and will read: "This book was written at a time when terms and attitudes which might be considered offensive by modern readers were commonplace. Many of the changes in the Bond



books are around the depiction of Black people. In 'Live and Let Die', Bond's comment that would-be African criminals in the gold and diamond trades are "pretty law-abiding chaps I should have thought", has been changed to just "pretty law-abiding chaps I should have thought", says the Telegraph. Another change comes in a scene where Bond visits a nightclub in Harlem, and a reference to the "audience panting and grunting like pigs at the trough" has been

changed to "Bond could sense the electric tension in the room". A statement from Ian Fleming Publications to the Telegraph said that they had "reviewed the text of the original Bond books and decided our best course of action was to follow Ian's lead". They encouraged "people to read the books for themselves" when they are reissued. The changes come after a furore over changes made to books by Roald Dahl, which saw the texts changed after a review by sensitivity readers. Changes to Dahl's books in the 2022 editions include using "enormous" rather than "enormously fat" to describe the antagonist Augustus Gloop in 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and "beastly" rather than "ugly and beastly" to describe Mrs. Twit in 'The Twits'. In response to criticism, Dahl's publisher Puffin, the children's imprint of Penguin Random House, said it would release the author's works in their original versions as well as the new texts.



The aerial shot shows Gavkhouni Lake near the central city of Isfahan, Iran, on February 28, 2023. The water level has risen in the lake thanks to recent rains.

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