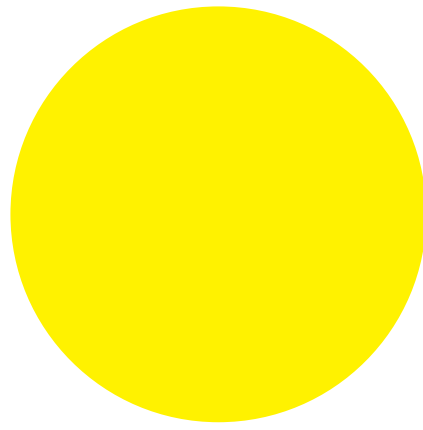




Leader: US targets Iran's national unity, security 2 >



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UNMUSK ASKED

A new biography of Elon Musk, published yesterday, details how he went from being a bullied kid in South Africa to a business magnate overseeing billion-dollar businesses. Although Musk is widely thought to be "a rule-breaking visionary who helped lead the world into the era of electric vehicles, private space exploration and artificial intelligence," his dazzling career has not been spotless. The eccentric billionaire has come under fire for his business strategies, manipulating stock markets, harsh work conditions in his companies, and many, many rash comments on Twitter, now X, and ill-advised feuds with respectable figures. His online persona, mixed with numerous ill-natured deeds raise a critical question: Is Elon Musk a scientist or a showman?

4-5 >



EXCLUSIVE

Spain hopes trade with Iran to become prosperous again: Envoy

7 >



EXCLUSIVE

Will EU return to Iran negotiating table?

7 >



Tehran in contact with Yerevan, Baku to ease tensions

2 >



Twisting story of Iran's National Cinema Day

8 >



Prime examples of Iranian social cinema

8 >



Iran Football Federation hits back at 'racist' comments against Taremi

6 >



Laleh Park, one of the oldest in Tehran

3 >

NEWS IN BRIEF

President hails medalists as 'pride of Iran'



● president.ir

IRNA - Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said Iranians who have won titles and medals are a source of pride for their country and the Islamic Republic. Raisi made the remarks on Monday in a ceremony that was held to see off Iran's Paralympians for the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China, honoring Iranian athletes who have won titles during the last two years.

Erbil complies with Iran-Iraq security deal: Barzani

MEHR - Erbil adheres to the Iran-Iraq security agreement, the President of Kurdistan Region Nechervan Barzani said in a meeting with Iran's ambassador to Baghdad Mohammad Kazem Ale-Sadegh on Monday. Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Monday the ultimatum given to Iraq to disarm Kurdish separatist groups will not be extended. "According to the agreement reached with the Iraqi government, the final deadline for the disarmament of the terrorist and separatist forces in Iraq's Kurdistan Region ends on September 19 and that deadline will not be extended in any way." He noted that the Iraqi government has taken measures in this regard, and has stressed that it will honor its commitments. "The Kurdistan region adheres to the security agreement between Iran and Iraq, and Iran must be sure that we will not allow the security of this country to be threatened from within this region", he added.

Envoy: Iran views KSA as 'strategic partner'

PRESS TV - Iran's ambassador to Riyadh said his country Iran views Saudi Arabia as a "strategic partner of great importance within the framework of its good neighborliness policy." Speaking in an interview with Asharq al-Awsat newspaper, Alireza Enayati said that "a promising future" is looming as the two countries are keen to expand bilateral ties. "What has been achieved during the past six months heralds goodness and a promising future, and we have serious resolve to develop Iranian-Saudi relations," he said, adding, "We have seen the same feeling in our [Saudi] brothers."

Leader: US targets Iran's national unity, security

International Desk

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said Iran's enemies, mainly the United States, have targeted two points they deemed the weakest; one is Iran's national unity, the other is its national security. Calling for Iranians to stand against this plan of the enemy, he stressed that to be united means to put aside religious, political, group, and ethnic differences where the interests of the nation are at stake, Press TV reported. "Those who threaten national security are the enemies of the nation; they work for the enemy, whether they realize it or not," the Leader added in a meeting with thousands of people from the provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan and South Khorasan in Tehran on Monday. The US, he said, is working on ethnic and sectarian fault lines in Iran with the aim of creating a crisis in the country. "Our intel tells us that Washington has created a crisis group with the mission to search for points that they think can be used

to provoke a crisis in Iran." "After conducting studies and contemplating, they have concluded that there are several crisis points in Iran: ethnic differences, religious differences, and the issue of gender and women, which should be provoked to create a crisis," the Leader explained.

Big global change coming. However, he said, the arrogant US and some European countries have weakened themselves "and will become weaker". He maintained the world is on the threshold of a transformation, which includes the weakening of the arrogant powers. Iran's Leader advised regional nations not to be indifferent toward the incoming "big change" as they were during the colonial era or after the First World War. Ayatollah Khamenei partly attributed the unfolding transformation to the emergence of new regional and global powers and partly to Washington's tendency to interfere in other states. "The United States used to interfere in various governments, but not so much



right now. Today, it has to start a hybrid war in order to hit the governments that it wants to hit, which is very costly for it, and will not work out in the end." The Leader called the US failure in Syria and its humiliating escape from Afghanistan as two obvious examples of the decline of

American power. "One of other most telling indicators of the decline of the US power is the decline of its strong economy, which they themselves attest." As for the decline of Europe, the situation is no better, he stated. "You hear how the African

countries that were once under the influence of France are rising against it one after another," the Leader said. Nevertheless, "when we say the enemy is becoming weak, it doesn't mean that it cannot plot, be hostile, and strike," Ayatollah Khamenei stressed.

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei waves for the people of the provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan and South Khorasan in Tehran, Iran, on September 11, 2023. ● leader.ir

IAEA Chief worried about loss of interest in Iran nuclear case



IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi (l.) waits for the start of the Board of Governors meeting in Vienna, Austria, on September 11, 2023. ● REUTERS

The head of the United Nations nuclear watchdog said on Monday he was concerned the international community was losing interest in holding Iran to account over its advancing nuclear programme. The comments follow an easing of tensions between Iran and the United States, who announced a prisoner swap last month, according to AFP. Last week, the International Atomic Energy

Agency (IAEA) said in confidential reports seen by AFP that Iran had made "no progress" on several outstanding nuclear issues. These include reinstalling IAEA monitoring cameras Tehran had removed from its known nuclear sites, or explaining the presence in Iran of uranium particles enriched to near weapons-grade level. IAEA Director General Raphael Grossi said on Monday he had noticed a "de-

crease in interest" from IAEA member states, without naming them. "There is a certain routinisation of what is going on there (in Iran) and I am concerned about this because the issues are as valid today as they were before," he told reporters on the first day of the IAEA Board of Governors' meeting in Vienna. Diplomatic sources say the United States and the so-called E3 group — France, Germany, and the

United Kingdom — have no plan this week to censure Iran for its lack of cooperation with the IAEA. Instead, at the behest of Washington, they will submit a joint declaration to the IAEA board meeting, which is expected to gain broad support, a source told AFP. "There are many pressing issues on the international agenda but I think it is important to continue to support the agency in its work," he continued.

Tehran in contact with Yerevan, Baku to ease tensions

International Desk

The spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry of Iran said Tehran is closely monitoring the situation in the Caucasus and stays in contact with Baku and Yerevan to ensure peace and security. Nasser Kanaani made the remarks at a press conference on Monday in response to a question about the possibil-

ity of a flare-up of tensions between Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, Tasnim news agency reported. "The Armenian officials have voiced their concern about the possibility of (military) clashes, but the Azerbaijani officials sent word that they have no intention of clashing (with Armenia)," he added, describing the Republic of Azerbaijan's recent deployment of troops as a "conventional military action" ahead of winter. "Iran is intently monitoring the developments. We have been given an assurance that Iran's borders are safe, and we support the security of boundaries," Kanaani underlined. He noted that Iran has firm, transparent stances on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh.

"Iran's stance on the Nagorno-Karabakh region — which has been announced explicitly several times — is not secret. Nagorno-Karabakh is part of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the rights and security of its residents must be defined within a definite framework," he added. Reiterating Iran's call for respecting the territorial integrity of states and alleviating tensions, Kanaani said a major step in resolving disputes between Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan and achieving peace and security is for the two countries to mutually recognize each other's territorial integrities. On Sunday, a military official dismissed as "baseless" the reports about the deploy-

ment of Iranian troops on the northern border with the Republic of Azerbaijan under the current tense circumstances in the South Caucasus. Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces for International Cooperation Mohammad Ahadi, who was leading an Iranian military delegation in Baku for the Azerbaijan-Iran Joint Commission meeting, said such reports are "completely groundless". Armenia-US joint drill underway. Meanwhile, the controversial joint military drills between Armenian and US forces kicked off Monday, the latest sign the Caucasus country is drifting from Moscow's orbit, as Russia's inva-

sion of Ukraine reshapes the post-Soviet space. The exercises come with frustration growing in Armenia that Russia has failed to act as a security guarantor as tensions build with historic rival Azerbaijan backed by Turkey, VOA wrote. Armenia's defense ministry said the exercises aim to "increase the level of interoperability" with US forces in international peacekeeping missions. Moscow, which leads a military alliance that includes Armenia, summoned Armenia's ambassador this week to complain about "unfriendly steps" the country was taking. The ministry said Armenia's envoy was given a "tough" rebuke but stressed the countries "remain allies".



This file photo shows Armenian military medics participating in international exercises in Germany in August. ● TWITTER

Laleh Park, one of the oldest in Tehran



● rahbal.com

Laleh Park in Tehran, with an area of about 35 hectares, is one of the most popular and oldest parks in Tehran. The park has access to Fatemi Street, Keshavarz Boulevard, North Kargar Street, and Hijab Street, from four directions: north, south, east, and west, respectively. In Laleh Park, you will find various plant species such as sycamore, willow, silver cypress, acacia, spruce, elm, maple, etc., creating a calm and quiet atmosphere, away from the hustle and bustle of the city, epiciran.com wrote.

Large pool

If you want to spend an amazing and energetic evening in the park, head straight towards its large pool. It is a spacious round pool, with several small and large fountains pro-

viding the music of flowing water in the most pleasant way.

Sundial

The sundial of Laleh Park is a large circle; if you open your hands, you may cover both sides of it. The sundial, as its name implies, represents the position of the sun in the sky.

Japanese garden

Right in the middle of Tehran there is a Japanese garden. The southeastern part of Laleh Park in Tehran is designed like a Japanese garden, with spiral streams, special fountains, and green spaces. In this part, there are no signs of tall trees. Here you can see mathematical order and lined spaces.

Statues

The statue of Omar Khayyam,

Persian polymath, known for his contributions to mathematics, astronomy, philosophy and poetry, is one of the most famous in the park, which was built in 1972.

The statue of the famous mathematician and astronomer Abu Reyhan al-Biruni stands out among the largest fountains of Laleh Park. It is the first large statue ordered by the Tehran Municipality after the victory of the Islamic Revolution. It was made by Mohammad Ali Madadi, in bronze, and it took about a year and a half to build.

Other attractions

Established in 1993, Laleh Gallery is located in the north of Laleh Park, as one of its spectacular attractions. Laleh Gallery is a specialized center for exhibiting various works of art. An

outdoor meeting hall and an amphitheater are the other amazing attractions of the park. The amphitheater is a place used for performing various plays and street theaters.

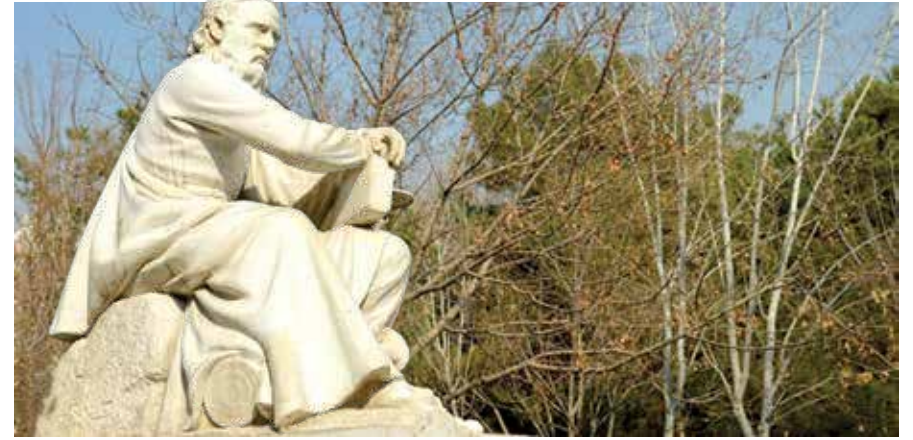
Laleh Bazaar

Located in the west of the park, Laleh Bazaar was established in 1988. It is neither too big nor too small.

The various stalls of the bazaar are full of young people displaying and selling various commodities including their handicrafts and paintings.

Museum of Contemporary Art

The Museum of Contemporary Art is one of the most famous museums in Iran, which was established in 1977. It is a comprehensive collection of



artworks made by top Iranian and foreign artists. This permanent museum keeps more than 3,000 works of visual art, some of which are by famous artists such as Picasso, Jackson Pollack, Magritte, Gauguin, and others. The proximity of the Tehran Museum of Contempo-

rary Art to Laleh Park is a good opportunity to see the unique arts in this collection.

Iranian Carpet Museum

The building of the Iranian Carpet Museum, with a carpet-like appearance, is the first thing that attracts

the attention of visitors in the northwest side of Laleh Park. This museum, which was inaugurated in 1977, features a unique collection of exquisite Persian carpets which are masterpieces of artists from Tabriz, Isfahan, Kerman, Kashan, Khorasan, etc.

Damavand sulfur hill

It is a common feature of volcanoes to have chimneys; these are vents through which sulfur gas escapes. The area surrounding the chimney is often green in color and covered in sulfur, too, and it is possible to stumble across hot springs in such regions.

Damavand, the highest of Iran's volcanoes, is not without these interesting geological features and you can find sulfur chimneys, greenish land, and hot water springs near its gaping crater. On windless days, if you happen to be passing along the southern face of Damavand, you will also spot a line of smoke going up from the side of the mountaintop, cheetah-adventures.com wrote.

A common route of climbing to Damavand's top is the southern way, in



● cheetah-adventures.com

which lie the most famous elements of Damavand's climb: the Abshar-e Yakhi (Ice Waterfall), hot water springs, the Fake Summit of Damavand, Sulfur Hill, and the sulfur vents.

One of the most interesting features of this moun-

tain is its Sulfur Hill. Along the climbing route of this mountain, precisely after the point of the Fake Summit, the region of Sulfur Hill begins, and it extends up to the summit. The Sulfur Hill or Tappeh Googerd begins at a

height of approximately 5,350 meters, where the greenish-yellow color of the ground's soil gives it its name.

Also, you will know you have reached the hills by the overpowering odor of sulfur. Here, you may also



● cheetah-adventures.com

notice the gas chimneys where volcanic gas is released into the air. At the end of the Sulfur Hill region, near the mountaintop, you will reach large chimneys whose diameter reaches up to one meter. Due to these elements,

the region has come to be called "Damavand Sulfur Hill."

On days when the wind doesn't disturb the line of smoke too much, taking photographs with the smoke line exiting the vents is nearly as

popular as the photographs taken at the very summit.

In case you have chosen the southern route for your climb, and if you decide to have a rest just before reaching the mountaintop, we recommend taking a moment's rest just before you reach Sulfur Hill; that is, on Triangle Rock, aka the Fake Summit of Damavand.

Furthermore, while climbing up, you can choose a route taking the direction of the wind into account so that sulfur smoke does not bother you. Still, the smoke will be bothersome to an extent and you can cover your face with a scarf. The time required to climb from the beginning of Sulfur Hill until you reach the summit is about one hour – of course, this depends on your speed as well.

Scientist vs SHOWMAN



By Ali
Amiri
Staff writer

A new biography of Elon Musk was published yesterday, written by Walter Isaacson, the journalist whose previous works have chronicled the lives of Steve Jobs, Albert Einstein, Leonardo da Vinci and Benjamin Franklin. It comes eight years after another biography, written by Ashlee Vance, which traces Elon Musk's life from his childhood up to the time he spent at Zip2 and PayPal, and then onto SpaceX, Tesla, and SolarCity.

Portraying the puzzling billionaire entrepreneur who is currently running six companies all at once has taken Isaacson two years, during which he shadowed Musk's every move, sat at meetings with him, and had late night talks with the eccentric owner of X – formerly known as Twitter. In addition, he has interviewed Musk's family, friends, and associates to gain a deeper understanding of him.

All the fuss about Amazon's already No. 1 bestseller, which opens with a quote from Steve Jobs, the co-founder of Apple, is an indicator that the cult of billionaire gurus is only getting stronger.

Today's relentless capitalism, with mainstream media at its disposal, shows a biased inclination towards those who top the Forbes billionaires list, cruelly sidestepping the ones who spend their lives helping humanity achieve collective gains.

These modern-day gurus are almost always praised for their perseverance in their efforts to "change the world," while rarely this critical question is raised: for better or for worse?

But who is this enigmatic "world-changer" constantly dominating headlines, really? Is he a genius rocket scientist working 80 hours a week for the sake of humanity, or just a showman tycoon who cares only about making money out of thin air?

Elon Reeve Musk was born on June 28, 1971, in Pretoria, South Africa, to a well-to-do family. Growing up under apartheid, he "was shy and awkward at school" and "didn't have many friends," according to his mother, Maye Musk. He was also bullied by peers, and at one point was so badly beaten that he was hospitalized for two weeks.

At the young age of 10, Elon developed an interest in computing and video games, and soon after took up the habit of founding – or confounding – companies, running and selling them when a good bid arrived. The list of enterprises he participated in is long, including names such as Zip2, PayPal, SpaceX, Starlink, Tesla, Neuralink, and Twitter, which he then rebranded as X.

Musk's education is by all standards unimpressive, as he holds a modest Bachelor of Arts in Physics. In 1995, he dropped out of a PhD program in materials science at Stanford University only two days after being accepted. Yet, through his immaculate business intuition which led him to venture into the markets where government money was abundant, especially through his investments in Tesla, he was able to accumulate a legendary wealth. But, through the years, Musk has shown a significant disregard for others' pockets and wellbeing.

Richest man on Earth

On November 13, 2021, US veteran senator Bernie Sanders tweeted: "We must demand that the extremely wealthy pay their fair share. Period."

He was not pointing anybody out, even though some of the world's richest people are among the most cunning tax evaders. No, Sanders' was a generic "tax the rich" tweet, to which Musk replied, in a shameless act of trolling, "I keep forgetting you're still alive," referencing Sanders' old age.

It's not a befitting position for anyone to oppose such a reasonable sentiment, let alone someone who aspires to save humanity from extinction, and lead them to a brighter future.

He also doubted that \$6 billion – roughly two percent of his wealth – could help with solving the problem of world hunger.

In October 2021, David Beasley, head of the U.N. food agency, congratulated Musk on Twitter for reportedly earning \$36 billion in a single day. "1/6 of your one-day increase would save 42 million lives that are knocking on famine's door," he wrote.

A few days later, Musk tweeted back at him, saying, "If WFP can describe on this Twitter thread exactly how \$6B will solve world hunger, I will sell Tesla stock right now and do it."

During the controversy, Musk seemed clueless as to what "starvation" is and how can swaths of the population dealing with it be saved by just half a dollar a day.

Still, not wanting to pay a fair amount of tax or seeking proof how money can help the very poorest of the Earth show only the tip of the iceberg of Musk's – and some of his peers – unethical principles when it comes to other people's pockets. Musk has shown a great propensity for disregarding other people's finances through using his status to influence stock markets and cryptocurrencies. He has at quite a few turns played with the markets. The most well-known, disruptive case came when he falsely claimed that he had secured funding to take Tesla private, misleading investors. He has also helped bump or dump cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin and Dogecoin, as a result of which so many people have lost their money.

All these instances scream irresponsible conman, not trustworthy leader of mankind.

Media personality

With 156 million X followers, Elon Musk is the most-followed person on the platform he now owns and controls. With myriads of devotees hanging on his every word, he is at a unique position to

propagate his ideas and advance his agendas.

However, some of his ideas are unscientific, and some others are conspiracy theories. Musk's espousing of such conspiracy theories have damaged the reputation of the platform, causing it to lose money. Yet, he was defiant when CNBC reporter David Faber pressed him in a live interview on May 16, 2023, about whether his promotion of them is hurting X's reputation with advertisers.

"I'll say what I want to say, and if the consequence of that is losing money, so be it," said the "free speech absolutist," whose platform has recently come under fire for allowing more hate speech to appear than before.

It looks as though Musk deeply believes that there is no such thing as bad publicity. He comes across as someone who is content to be called out over even hated, as long as he is making headlines left and right.

All this ill-thought-out headline-making makes one wonder whether he's even capable of thinking clearly. It casts doubt on the validity of his business strategies and bold claims of knowing what's best for humanity.

Mars colonizer

Musk has set himself up with the noble task of saving humanity. From warning against population decline to efforts to make humankind a space-faring creature – helpful in the case of an inevitable Armageddon – to worrying himself with the dangers of artificial intelligence, he has crusaded tirelessly to enlighten us mortals and show us the true path to salvation.

Although planning to make interplanetary travel a reality is truly admirable, aspiring to colonize Mars and trying to sell the idea that not only it's possible, but also necessary, is downright foolish. In a bid to ensure that human consciousness would live on, Musk wants to put humans on the Red Planet.

A month or so after Musk unveiled his plans to colonize Mars during the International Astronautical Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 2016, the American astrophysicist Neil DeGrasse Tyson told Nicola Davis of The Guardian that in order to "ship a billion people to Mars and have them live there as they are living on Earth, you'll have to terraform Mars."

A sci-fi word from the 1940s, terraform means transforming a planet so as to resemble the earth, especially so that it can support human life.

"If you had the power of geoengineering to terraform Mars into Earth," continued the respected astrophysicist, "then you have the power of geoengineering to turn Earth back into Earth."

Tyson's idea is, by all appearances, the better one for saving humanity. We do already have a planet that could potentially sustain life for centuries to come, given that we pool our resources together and solve the problems facing human life on Earth: climate change, poverty, famine, war, and so on.

"The argument that if we trash Earth we need another planet doesn't work," warns Tyson, further clarifying that he doesn't believe that "escaping Earth and leaving others behind to die is the most sensible solution out there."

Yet, unfortunately, the sensible words of a real scientist are dwarfed by the delirious ramblings of a bizarre billionaire, who is apparently unable to relate on a human level to the people around him, or further away.

Scientist vs showman

Some people might be under the impression that Musk is a genius scientist who primarily concerns himself with building rockets and spaceships and turning humanity into a space-faring species. He does a lot to expand that image, posting pictures of himself gesticulating near launch pads, or sharing via X news of SpaceX's advancements.



Even so, Musk has clearly misunderstood COVID-19 and took a few very unscientific stances on the matter. In 2020, he called people worried about the pandemic “dumb” and falsely predicted that there will be no new cases “by end of April.” Furthermore, he questioned the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines, and baselessly asserted that there were “quite a few negative reactions” to getting a second shot.

He not only tried to downplay the threat of COVID-19 online, but also violated the local rules when he reopened Tesla’s Bay Area factory, as a result of which 450 workers got sick with the virus. Entertaining conspiracy theories and blatantly ignoring the science behind the pandemic should be enough to illustrate that Elon Musk is not a science guy, but a fizzy showman, whose end goals are not yet clear for many around the world.

Elon the Terrible

Elon Musk’s Tesla was ordered to pay nearly \$137 million to a former Black employee who said the company ignored repeated complaints that he was called the N-word and that his colleagues “had drawn swastikas and scratched a racial epithet in a bathroom stall and left drawings of derogatory

Thanks, but no thanks

Today’s relentless capitalism, with mainstream media at its disposal, shows a biased inclination towards those who top the Forbes billionaires list, cruelly sidestepping the ones who spend their lives helping humanity achieve collective gains. These modern-day gurus are almost always praised for their perseverance in their efforts to “change the world,” while rarely this critical question is raised: for better or for worse?

The list of the terrible things Elon Musk has said and done is long. If his aim was to set himself apart from true visionaries who have the benefit of humanity at heart, he was surely successful. Everything considered, I have only one thing to say to this self-appointed savior of mankind: Thanks, but no thanks.



caricatures of Black children around the factory.” In addition, a female Tesla worker said sexual harassment was “rampant,” alleging “nightmarish conditions” and a factory that “more resembles a crude, archaic construction site or frat house than a cutting-edge company in the heart of the progressive San Francisco Bay area.”

The company has also been called by some employees a “modern-day sweatshop,” and Musk regularly explodes at “executives and lower-ranking workers” alike, firing people who disagree with him left and right.

After acquiring Twitter, Musk emailed the employees demanding that they commit to “long hours at high intensity” or leave, further roiling a staff already dealing with sweeping layoffs, mass executive departures and repeated business missteps under the rich man’s ownership.

The list of the terrible things Elon Musk has said and done is long. If his aim was to set himself apart from true visionaries who have the benefit of humanity at heart, he was surely successful. Everything considered, I have only one thing to say to this self-appointed savior of mankind: Thanks, but no thanks.



Iran dominates Asian para taekwondo meet



● taekwondo.ir

Sports Desk

A remarkable 12 medals, half of which were golds, saw Iran dominate the Asian Para Open Taekwondo Championships, claiming both team titles in Beirut.

Maryam Abdollahpour (-47kg), Mahdiyeh Hosseini (-52kg), Roza Ebrahimi (-57kg), and Mahtab Nabavi (-57kg K41) walked away with the ultimate prize of their respective weight classes, with Leila Mirzaei (+65kg) and Romina Cham-souraki (-65kg) bagging a couple of silvers, as Iran beat Uzbekistan to the women's crown.

Abdollahpour, who defeated reigning Paralympic champion Leonor Espinoza in the final, was named the female MVP of the competitions, and Atefeh Keshavarz captured the best female coach award. In the men's event, Saeed Sadeqian (-63kg) and Hamed Haqshenas (+80kg) headlined Iran's title-winning run with two gold medals, while Mohammad-Taha Hassanpour (-58kg), Alireza Bakht (-80kg), and Mehdi Pour-Rahnama (-70kg) were the country's silver winners.

Amirmohammad Haqshenas finished his campaign with a -70kg bronze to take the Iranian men's medal count to six.

Uzbekistan followed Iran in the men's table with double golds and silvers apiece, plus four bronzes, with the Chinese Taipei finishing third, thanks to single gold.

Men's head coach Payam Khanlarkhani was also awarded with the best coach prize.

Iran Football Federation hits back at 'racist' comments against Taremi

Sports Desk

Iran Football Federation condemned the "racist" comments made by a Portuguese pundit against Porto's Iranian striker Mehdi Taremi, describing them as "absurd and disgraceful."

Speaking on Sporting TV last week, Carlos Xavier – a former player of Sporting CP – used hostile words to criticize the Iranian for the way he intends to convince the referees to blow in their whistles for a spot-kick, calling on the match official of the game featuring Porto and Arouca to show double yellow cards to "a Muslim, who did not even know how to swim when he first arrived in Portugal, but is now a good diver."

His remarks came after Porto was held to a 1-1 home draw in the Portuguese top flight, with the ref, Miguel Nogueira, pointing to the spot in the 90th minute, after a challenge on Taremi in the box, only to see his decision overturned by the VAR.

Porto was awarded a second penalty with 12 minutes into stoppage time, when Taremi was brought down in the area again, but Brazilian Galeno was denied by Arouca

keeper Ignacio De Arruabarrena.

"The Iranian Football Federation and the members of the national team condemn the absurd and disgraceful comments against the committed player Mehdi Taremi as friendship and kindness remain the global language of football," the Iranian governing body's statement read on Sunday.

Porto, meanwhile, was quick to hit back at Xavier, asking what human rights organizations – including SOS Racisme, Amnesty Portugal, European Commission against Racism, and the Commission Equality and Racial Discrimination – as well as the Portuguese government and the Ministry of Justice think of the pundit's "xenophobic, racist, and hate speech" comments, adding on X, formerly known as Twitter, on Friday: "This is too serious to go unharmed."

In a U-turn on his previous criticism, Xavier apologized to the Iranian player later on Friday, saying: "I am not the kind of person who uses a xenophobic and racist language as I have friends of all colors and religious beliefs. I have utmost respect for Taremi and the great job he has done in his national team."



Porto striker Mehdi Taremi (R) is seen in action during a 1-1 draw against Arouca in the Primeira Liga at the Estádio do Dragão, Porto, Portugal, on September 3, 2023.
● GETTY IMAGES

Djokovic wins US Open for record equalling 24th Grand Slam



● MIKE SEGAR/REUTERS

REUTERS – Novak Djokovic would not let Daniil Medvedev spoil his date with history a second time as he battled past the Russian 6-3 7-6(5) 6-3 to win the US Open on Sunday and equal Margaret Court's record haul of 24 Grand Slams.

Djokovic's victory, his fourth in 10 Flushing Meadows finals, capped another remarkable season after his wins at the Australian Open and Roland Garros, and he returned to the top of the world rankings on Monday.

No man has won a calendar Grand Slam in 54 years, though

Djokovic came close once again, losing in five sets to Carlos Alcaraz in the Wimbledon final. But for the moment he is savouring his 24th Slam.

"It obviously means the world to me," he said. "I'm really living my childhood dream."

"To make the history of this sport is something truly remarkable, it's hard to describe the words. "I had the childhood dream when I was seven, eight, I wanted to become the best player in the world."

As he continues to live his dream Djokovic is also staking his claim to the mantle of greatest tennis

player of all time.

At 36 Djokovic also becomes the oldest US Open men's winner in the Open Era but the Serb's Grand Slam hunger has not dimmed and he had some bad news for his younger rivals.

"Eventually one day I will leave tennis in about 23, 24 years," he joked. "Until then, I guess you'll see me a bit more."

"I don't put any number right now in my mind on how many Slams I want to win."

"I'll continue to prioritize them as my most important tournaments and where I want to play the best tennis."

Persepolis closing in on Caicedo contract

Sports Desk

Persian Gulf Pro League champion Persepolis is on the verge of signing former Lazio striker Felipe Caicedo for a reported \$600,000 fee.

The 35-year-old Ecuadorian, who has 22 goals under his belt in 68 international caps, spent last season at the Saudi Pro League side Abha Club, where he scored three in 24 appearances across all competitions.

Also an ex-player of Basel, Manchester City, Lokomotiv Moscow, and Espanyol, Caicedo played for Lazio between 2017 and 2021, bagging 28 strikes in 105 outings.

Should the deal go through, it will bring an end to the Tehran Reds' desperate summer-long search for a forward as manager Yahya Golmohammadi has only one recognized striker in Shahab Zahedi at his disposal, after parting ways with Issa Alekassir and Mehdi Abdi during the transfer window.



● GETTY IMAGES

First Announcement


N.I.S.O.C
 NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
 AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 01-31-9680034

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
7	P/F "ROLLS-ROYCE" INDUSTRIAL AVON GAS GENERATORS	51 NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 2, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 20,901.20 EURO or 8,434,493,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials through technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab

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Spain hopes trade with Iran to become prosperous again: *Envoy*

By Sadeq Dehqan & Reza Abesh Ahmadlou
Staff writers

The Economic and Commercial Office of Spain in Tehran hopes that the economic exchanges between the two countries will return to their prosperous days, said Spanish Ambassador to Iran Angel Losada Fernandez. Talking to Iran Daily, the top diplomat noted that before the US withdrew from the JCPOA, the trade between Iran and Spain amounted to €2 billion per annum, which has decreased now to €200 million. He added that despite the significant drop in economic exchanges between the two countries due to the collapse of the JCPOA, his country kept its Economic and Commercial Office open in Iran. "I am interested in the development of trade deals between the two countries, because Spain enjoys a very flexible economy and has always been keen on developing its economic relations with other countries, including Iran," Losada noted. Referring to the nuclear nego-

tiations between Iran and the P5+1, the envoy said, "The JCPOA is very important for us as we are waiting for the agreement to be resumed."

Political approximation

Pointing to the presidency of the Council of the European Union which Spain took over on July 1, he noted that his country is trying to develop relations between Iran and European states within the framework of mutual respect and constructive will. "Spain's rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union has granted the country a special position, as a result of which I, as the ambassador of Spain, am in charge of the local presidency of the EU, so we are doing our best to establish relations between Iran and Europe based on friendship and with a view to build a better future," the diplomat explained. He went on to say that the periodic presidency of the Council of the European Union is effective in converging the views of the member states in various fields, including Iran issues,

and therefore we must pay attention to this issue founding our activities on the said basis.

"Currently, Spain has to reach an understanding with its 26 partners in the EU on various issues, as it is important in the case of Iran because 22 EU states have their embassies in Iran."

Referring to the history of relations between the two countries, Iran and Spain, the ambassador said the two countries have an ancient and long history of relations as according to some documents, the relations date back to 400 years ago.

"Today, the relations between Iran and Spain are based on mutual respect with an eye on building the future," he noted.

An issue that has affected the relations between the two countries which leaves an impact on the prospects of the relations in the future is the arrest of a Spanish citizen who has been in Iranian prisons since last year, he criticized.

"In my opinion, such issues is not in accordance with the vision of the two countries to



Spanish Ambassador to Iran Angel Losada Fernandez
IRAN DAILY

build the future which slows down the development of relations," the envoy added. In order to solve the problem, Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares Bueno has negotiated with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, he said expressing his hope on resolving the issue as soon as possible.

Cultural bridges

Culture is another important aspect in the relations between the two countries, Losada said adding that the point is that there is a lot of

interest in Iranian culture in Spain, and as I noticed, the same interest in Spanish culture is also observed in Iran. Referring to the cultural similarities of the two countries, the Spanish ambassador stated that the Granada Botanical Gardens in the south of Spain are one of the cultural heritages of the European country, which are built exactly according to the models of Iranian gardens (paradise gardens).

The paradise garden is a form of garden of Old Iranian origin, symmetrical and most often enclosed. The most tra-

ditional form is a rectangular garden split into four quarters with a pond in the center, a fourfold design called chahar bagh (four gardens). One of the most important elements of paradise gardens is water, with ponds, canals, rills, and fountains all being common features. Scent is an essential element with fruit-bearing trees and flowers selected for their fragrance. "Personally, I am very interested in working on commonalities and cultural similarities that can be witnessed in the two countries," the envoy concluded.

NEWS IN BRIEF

China to curb 'disruption' in currency market



AFP - China's central bank said on Monday it would crack down on speculation that distorts the value of the yuan as the country's currency sees persistent volatility. The People's Bank of China said in a statement Monday that it had convened a "special meeting" to discuss "the recent situation in the foreign exchange market and issues around the exchange rate of the renminbi", the official name for the yuan.

Russian oil grabs bigger slice of Czech imports



REUTERS - Russian crude accounted for a bigger slice of the Czech Republic's oil imports in the first half, state oil pipeline operator MERO said on Monday, despite the country's plan to wean itself off Russian supply. Russian oil accounted for 65% of total imports, up from 56% for the full year in 2022 and from 49% in 2021. The Czech Republic imports oil through the Druzhba pipeline via Ukraine and through the IKL pipeline which links to the TAL pipeline in Germany.

Will EU return to Iran negotiating table?

By Hassan Beheshtipour
International affairs expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Luigi Di Maio, the European Union's special representative for the Persian Gulf region, met separately with Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his deputy for political affairs Ali Baqeri-Kani in Tehran on Monday. During his meeting with Baqeri-Kani, the Iranian deputy minister expressed said Tehran would welcome any European initiative aimed at fostering cooperation. In response, Di Maio stressed the importance of maintaining an ongoing dialogue and engagement with the Islamic Republic. The exact purpose of Di

Maio's visit to Tehran remains somewhat unclear, as it is not considered a high-level diplomatic mission. Therefore, a more thorough assessment of the trip will have to wait until there are more about his subsequent statements and positions following the meetings in Tehran. Nonetheless, there have been several bones of contention between Iran and Europe in recent months that soured their relationship. One such issue is Europe's rigid stance on Iran's domestic protests that hit some Iranian cities last year. Europeans had hoped that these protests might compel Tehran to alter its approach to regional affairs, the Ukraine conflict, human rights, and nuclear negotiations. However, they gradually realized that Iran

had not made significant changes to its entrenched positions. Another source of tension between Iran and Europe is the alleged military cooperation between Iran and Russia against Ukraine. Moreover, the level of Iran's cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its participation in nuclear negotiations have also been points of contention between the two sides. It is noteworthy that Di Maio's visit coincided with the IAEA's quarterly Board of Governors meeting. In the past, Europe had played the role of a mediator between Iran and the United States. However, due to their increasingly tough stances against Iran, Tehran decided to sideline Eu-

rope and instead entrusted this role to Oman and Qatar. This shift ultimately led to an agreement between Iran and the United States concerning the exchange of prisoners and the release of Iran's frozen assets in South Korea. It appears that these critical issues were on the agenda for the European special envoy's talks with Iranian authorities. Accordingly, interpreting the visit of a European delegation to Tehran should not automatically imply a complete shift in Europe's stance toward Iran or an attempt to correct past mistakes.

Nevertheless, during his meeting with Iran's deputy foreign minister, Di Maio emphasized Europe's desire to keep the lines of communication and interaction with Tehran open. This stance is undoubtedly constructive and suggests that Europe is not interested in severing ties with Iran completely. In the past, Iran and Europe had engaged in a project termed "critical dialogue." During the 1990s, the EU initiated this dialogue with Tehran while maintaining a critical perspective. Iran had welcomed this proposal

at the time. Now, in light of the recent strains in Iran-EU relations, the European special envoy's emphasis on maintaining open channels of dialogue and interaction indicates the EU's intention to settle disputes with Iran through peaceful means, rather than escalating tensions. This approach is the right path to take, and if pursued, Iran and the EU can address their differences and steadily identify areas for cooperation. However, whether the special envoy's positions will be put into practice by the EU remains to be seen.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



First Announcement

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 NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
 AHVAZ, IRAN

TENDER NO.: 01-31-9680036

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First of Iran's Cinema

First Iranian talkie made in other countries

'Lor Girl' was the first talking film ever to be produced in the Farsi language. Directed by Ardeshir Irani, it was filmed in 1932 under the Imperial Film Company in Mumbai, India. Lor Girl is the first feature film to star a female actress. It was still a taboo at the time to broadcast women in cinema and even radio.

First Iranian documentary

The very first Iranian documentary film was about an event called the Flower Day in Ostend, Belgium. It was filmed by Mirza-Ebrahim Khan Akkasbashi.

First Iranian war documentary

'Khorramshahr: The City of Life, the City of Blood' was filmed by Mahmood Bahadori, and 'Flaming Poppies' was made by Hooshang Shafti in 1963. Flaming Poppies is about the daily life of Bakhtiari nomads in winter.

First Iranian film trailer

The first film trailer was for 'A Girl from Shiraz', a film produced by Samuel Khachikian in 1954. The trailer later became a popular role model for Iranian trailer makers.

First Iranian drama school

Registration for the first drama class started in 1930 with a total enrollment of 300 students, even though only 12 students participated in the classes. The classes were held in various fields of music, acting, sports, filmmaking, gymnastics, and dancing.

First Iranian director

Ovanes Ohanian (October 1896-September 1960) was an Armenian-Iranian filmmaker who built the first film school in Iran's history. His first film, Abi and Rabi, was made in 1930.

First Iranian film

Abi and Rabi was Iran's first feature-length film directed by Ovanes Ohanian. The film depicts the amusing adventures of Abi (a tall man) and Rabi (a short man) in various scenarios.

First Iranian talkie made in Iran

'The Storm of Life' was the first talking film ever to be produced in Farsi. The film, which was shot in black and white, was directed by Ali Daryabeigi and written by Nezam Vafa. It was produced by Mitra Film Company in Iran in 1948.

First Iranian colored film

'Whirlwind' is the first colored Iranian film directed by Hassan Kheradmand in 1953.

First Iranian theatres

Cinema Soleil (soleil means Sun in French) was established in 1900 in Tabriz. Cinema Etemad al-Saltaneh, which was owned by a person named Etemad al-Saltaneh, was built by Avano in Mashhad. It was also commonly called Shahr-e-Farang. Cinema Pars was built on Dariush Street in 1926 in Shiraz.

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Twisting story of Iran's National Cinema Day

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's National Cinema Day, celebrated on September 12, has long been a subject of controversy regarding its true birthdate.

Abbas Baharloo, a cinema researcher, argues that when Mozaffar al-Din Shah, the fifth Qajar king, bought cinematography equipment, he marked the birth of cinema in Iran, which could also roughly be measured from the filming of the 'flower festival,' dating back to 120 years ago.

However, there is another perspective that maintains the production of the first Iranian film, 'Abi and Rabi,' is the beginning of Iranian cinema history in Iran, which falls short of 90 years ago.

The selection of September 12 as National Cinema Day was based on the day Mirza Ebrahim Khan Akkas Bashi, the royal photographer of Mozaffar ad-Din Shah, first used a camera to film the 'flower festival'.

Twenty-six years ago in 1997, the Iranian House of Cinema proposed the idea of designating a National Cinema Day, with the intention of honoring May 21, but it was eventually approved on September 12, 2000, becoming an official part of the Iranian calendar.

It was in 1997 that Abolhassan Davoudi, one of the council members of Iran Cinema Celebration, said, "It has been decided that one day of the year be named 'National Cinema Day,' and the cinema celebration should be held simultaneously with that day. It is planned to honor May 21 as 'National Cinema Day,' and we have presented this proposal to the Supreme Council of Culture. With the approval of the Iranian Parliament, we can officially hold the House of Cinema celebration every year on the same day."

Two years later, on September 12, 2000, 'National Cinema Day' was approved and became part of the Iranian calendar. From that



year onward, this day served as an occasion to address the challenges facing filmmakers and the national cinema industry and to draw the attention of the general public to this sector.

Although there were occasional comments about the insignificance or ineffectiveness of this day, the symbolic presence of Cinema Day on the national calendar does signify the importance of cinema.

However, in 2020, the General Culture Council of Iran moved 'National Cinema Day,' along with several other occasions, to the appendices of the calendar. The secretary of the council explained, "Our official calendar had

become full, so we had to eliminate some occasions and move others to the appendices. 'National Cinema Day' was one of the cases that got moved to the appendices."

The removal of this national day from the country's calendar sparked objections from filmmakers, and the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution finally reinstated National Cinema Day in the calendar in 2014.

National Cinema Day has been back on the calendar for several years now as an opportunity to further explore the concerns and challenges that the Iranian cinema is currently facing and find solutions to address them.

On the occasion of Iranian National Cinema Day, here are some

Prime examples of Iranian social cinema

Social Desk

All through the history of Iranian cinema, filmmakers exploited the transformative potential of the medium as a tool for raising critical social concerns and driving social change.

Before the Islamic Revolution of 1979, despite facing stringent censorship and

political restrictions posed by the Pahlavi regime, Iranian filmmakers used the silver screen to artfully express dissent, challenge societal norms, and shed much needed light on urgent issues. Iranian New Wave directors used symbolism and allegory as a means to convey deeply political and social messages to their audience in a time period that mind-numb-

ing, cheesy melodramas dominated theater halls.

After the revolution, Iranian cinema underwent a humanistic, spiritual transformation, after which it gradually found its unique style of depicting timeless struggles facing humankind. In time, post-revolution cinema of the country turned into a social platform that could speak to

large audiences.

Not only Iranian cinema was primarily a social one until recently, but it also carried the power to affect society in an array of ways. In this piece, we will put under examination a handful of post-revolution films that have captivated Iranian – and even international – audiences and stirred the social imagination.



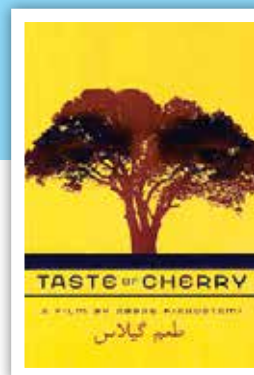
1969 'The Cow' by Dariush Mehrjui

Based on a story by Gholam-Hossein Sa'edi, the film revolves around a humble villager named Masht Hassan, who lives a simple life in a remote Iranian village with his beloved cow. When tragedy strikes and his cow unexpectedly dies, Masht Hassan's world is shattered. Consumed by grief, he descends into madness and begins to believe that he is the cow, assuming its identity and mannerisms. The villagers, initially sympathetic, are taken aback by Masht Hassan's transformation and struggle to comprehend his shattered psyche. As the line between reality and delusion blurs, the film explores the complexities of identity, mental health, and the fragility of the human mind.



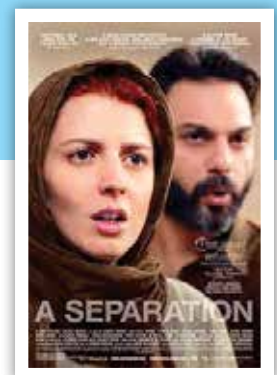
1992 'From Karkheh to Rhein' by Ebrahim Hatamikia

It is an emotionally powerful movie that narrates the story of Saeed, a soldier injured in the Iraqi-imposed war, who is sent to Germany for treatments. In Germany, he meets his sister and her German husband. The sorrows of Iranian soldiers who fell victim to chemical attacks of Iraqi dictator Saddam, enabled by western countries' support, moved Iranian as well as international audiences, bringing many to tears. The audiences were transfixed as the siblings, who have not had any relations in many years, try to re-establish the close relationship that they had long time ago.



1997 'Taste of Cherry' by Abbas Kiarostami

One of late Abbas Kiarostami's memorable movies, it follows its protagonist Mr. Badii, a middle-aged man, on a mysterious quest. Driving around, looking for someone to assist him, he picks up various passengers. When it is revealed that he plans to commit suicide and is seeking someone to bury him if he succeeds, each passenger reacts differently. Each encounter with a potential assistant reflects a different aspect of life, raising existential questions and exploring the profound intricacies of human existence. Through these encounters, the film scrutinizes themes of loneliness, connection, and the search for meaning in a world that often feels devoid of purpose.



2011 'A Separation' by Asghar Farhadi

This internationally acclaimed masterpiece explores complex themes of gender, class, and justice within Iranian society. Through a gripping narrative centered around a couple seeking a divorce, the film depicts the intricacies of interpersonal relationships and the moral dilemmas faced by individuals on a daily basis in a changing society. The movie not only resonated with Iranian audiences but also garnered worldwide recognition. The accolades received by the movie and its director filled Iranians with a sense of pride.