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U.S. Bad-Faith Conduct Exacerbates Iran's Mistrust Page 3

Report 🗗

Iran, Uzbekistan to draw roadmap for expanding economic ties

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN - Iran and Uzbekistan are set to draw a comprehensive roadmap for the expansion of economic relations between the two countries through the development of ties in all areas including industry, energy, customs, mining, agriculture, and investment.

The decision in this regard was announced during the two countries' 14th Joint Economic Committee meeting on Sunday.

In this event, which was co-chaired by Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin and Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime-Minister for Investments and Foreign Economic Affairs and Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade Umurzakov Sardor Uktamovich, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for cooperation in the mentioned areas.

The mentioned MOU was signed by Fatemi-Amin and Umarzakov at the end of the meeting.

Level of mutual trade unsatisfactory

Speaking in this meeting, Fatemi-Amin pointed to the close cultural and historical relations between Iran and Uzbekistan and expressed the Iranian government's willingness for the expansion of all-out ties with Uzbekistan. ► Page 4



A foodie paradise where it's not just food on the menu

By Afshin Majlesi TEHRAN - Nowadays, a soaring number of travelers are looking for something different



In what analysts are describing as yet another defeat for the Saudi-led coalition waging war on Yemen, a large-scale ground offensive on a Yemeni city near the Saudi border has been met with a counter Yemeni operation.

The counteroffensive reflects the growing military power of Yemen's armed forces as details emerge of Saudi-led forces fleeing back across the border with heavy casualties inflicted and their military vehicles left burning on Yemeni soil.

Yemen's military media has published footage documenting the losses of the forces belonging to the Saudi-led coalition in the battle of Harad; a Yemeni city in the strategic province of Hajjah that borders Saudi Arabia as well as the Red Sea. ► Page 5

Military chief: Army strongly guard national borders

TEHRAN — Chief of the Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Bageri on Monday hailed the Army Ground Force for guarding national borders firmly and powerfully.

"The Army Ground Force has a heavy responsibility in defending the country's borders

and territorial integrity ... and is fulfilling the responsibility with confidence, calm and firmness," Major General Bageri said during the opening ceremony of a water project implemented by the Army in Helmand, a town in the southeastern province of Sistan-Balouchestan. He also hailed the ground force's efforts to



serve the people in the region, especially in reducing poverty and helping the residents in the fight against the coronavirus.

The commander added a hospital in the nearby city of Zabol will be equipped by the Army to make it ready to better serve the locals. ► Page **2**

Seven new movies to hit Iranian theaters

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Interview 🍞

Normalization of ties with Israel exposes oligarchy: analyst

By Zahra Samimi

TEHRAN - An executive at the Johannesburg-based Media Review Network (MRN) believes that the normalization of ties with Israel showed oligarchic and unprincipled essence of Persian Gulf Arab states.

"Normalization has thus exposed the (Persian) Gulf states as a group of unprincipled self-imposed oligarchs who care only to protect their thrones," Iqbal Jassat tells the Tehran Times.

"The immediate implication of 'normalization' is a betraval of Palestine's freedom struggle to rid itself of a colonial settler regime illegally occupying its homeland," Jassat noted.

Last week, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett met Bahrain's king on a visit to the Persian Gulf country. The visit took place 17 months after they established relations under a 2020 U.S.-sponsored deal called "Abraham Accord".

Bennett's one-day visit to the island kingdom was the first by an Israeli leader.

"Indeed the most important implication of 'normalization' is the fact that the majority of Arabs, Muslims and Christians alike within the Persian Gulf region, would question the morality of these leaders turning their backs on Palestine," Jassat notes.

Following is the text of the interview:

like spending all day in a tranquil landscape where you can hike up mountains in the thick mist of the morning and picnic by waterfalls in the shadow of jagged rocks in the afternoon.

When it comes to Iran, food is also a delightful vehicle for discovering the ancient land that has long been situated at the crossroads of history.

A paradise for foodie travelers, Iran is where it's not just food on the menu. Some believe the Iranian cuisine is itself a metaphor for the country: It's savory, sweet, fragrant, and incredibly complex.

Iranian cuisine delicately combines characteristics and peculiarities of the Near and West Asia, India, and East Asia due to Iran's checkered antiguity and the country's location as a hub of trade between East and West on the historic Silk Roads. Similarly, the Persians have influenced many cuisines as part of their once policy of expansion.

It should be noted that it is not a blind mix of different culinary traditions. For example, the seasoning is much milder than in India, or, Persian rice is fluffy and fragrant and not as sticky as in East Asia.

There are many secrets to know about the Persian kitchen. An example of those very special characteristics is the medicinal aspects of Persian cuisine.

Next time that you hear from an Iranian that some kind of food is Cold (Sard) or Warm (Garm) remember that they may be speaking about something other than the temperature of the food but with its influence on the body and soul - very comparable to some aspects of Chinese cuisine. > Page 6

Iran president visits Qatar

TEHRAN - During his first visit to a Persian Gulf country, Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi arrived in the Qatari capital Doha on Monday morning.

Ayatollah Raisi visited neighboring Qatar upon an official invitation to participate in the 6th summit of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), which will be held on Tuesday. ► Page 3

during Noruz

TEHRAN - Seven new films, including the acclaimed war drama "The Situation of Mehdi", are coming to Iranian theaters for Noruz, the Iranian New Year holiday.

The Screening Council of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance also announced on Monday that Iranian theaters will begin screening the movies from March 9.

Winner of the Crystal Simorgh for best film at the Fajr Film Festival, "The Situation of Mehdi" has also won wide acclaim from critics and journalists.

Directed by Hadi Hejazifar, the film portrays part of the life story of Mehdi Bakeri, the chief of IRGC 31st Shura Division that carried out several major operations during the 1980-1988 Iran-Irag war.

The lineup also includes "The Late" directed by Hossein Namazi.

With layers of satire, the film follows Nader, a poor man who must pay for the hospital bill and funeral following his father's untimely death. ► Page 8

What are the implications of the normalization of ties with Israel by the Emirates and Bahrain?

The immediate implication of "normalization" is a betrayal of Palestine's freedom struggle to rid itself of a colonial settler regime illegally occupying its homeland.

"Normalization" has thus exposed the (Persian) Gulf states as a group of unprincipled self-imposed oligarchs who care only to protect their thrones. > Page 5

Iran win CAVA Beach Volleyball Championship title

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Sri Lanka to win the 1st Central Asian Volleyball Association (CAVA) Beach Volleyball Championship.

Iran 1's Sina Shokati/ Moitaba Aro beat Anjana/Sandun 2-0 (21-16,21-12) in the final match on Sunday.

Iran 2's Mehdi Mahfoozi/ Ali Ghorbanpasandi won the bronze medal after their Sri Lankan opponents Tiron/Ashen withdrew from the match.

The three-day competition was held in Beach Park Negombo, Sri Lanka for the 75th Independence Cup.

The Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation (SLVB) hosted the event for both men and women.

Iran, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka took part in the competition.

Iran ready to transfer knowledge on natural resources to Kazakhstan

TEHRAN – Masoud Mansour, head of the Forests, Rangelands, and Watershed Management Organization, has expressed the country's readiness to share knowledge on natural resources to Kazakhstan.

Considering good experiences in dealing with desertification in Iran, the knowledge can be transferred to Kazakhstan, he added.

He made the remarks in a meeting held

in Tehran on Monday with Kazakhstan's Vice Minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources Talgat Momyshev.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the two countries in the field of natural resources.

Noting that significant success has been achieved in the field of desertification in Iran, Mansour said that Iran has a long history in this field and so far, has turned 1.5 million hectares of desert lands into forests.

The Iranian official said that there are 14 million hectares of forests, over 80 million hectares of pastures, and 30 million hectares of desert lands in Iran, IRNA reported. ► Page 7

POLITICS

FEBRUARY 22, 2022 Straight Truth **TEHRAN TIMES**

Is Saudi Arabia trying to bring normalization lexis to the country?

TEHRAN— In an interview with the Israeli newspaper Maariv on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference, Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan said that Israel's integration into the region would be beneficial not only for Israel but for the region as a whole

The Saudi foreign minister added that his country will continue the peace process with Israel if the Palestinian issue is resolved fairly.

He noted that this situation would strengthen extremist movements in the region without resolving the deep-rooted problems of the Palestinian people and respecting their sovereignty.

In a mishmash of contradictory statements, the top Saudi diplomat said that the priority now is to find a solution so that the Israelis and Palestinians can sit together to pursue a peace process.

He also stressed that this will make things easier for all countries that do not yet have relations with Israel

The Saudi foreign minister had previously stated that his country's commitment to the establishment of a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders would remain a condition for the normalization of relations with Israel

"This position has never been established," Faisal bin Farhan told Al-Arabiya in response to a question about whether Saudi Arabia's position on the normalization of relations with Israel was still conditional on the formation of a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders.

He reiterated that Saudi Arabia's position "will not change."

He said that what is important now is the return of Palestinian relations with Israel in order to begin a real process that will lead to a comprehensive peace, during which the state of Palestine will be formed with the capital of East Jerusalem.

The Saudi foreign minister added that without such a path, the region would not see real peace and

stability, stressing that this is a priority for Saudi Arabia.

The contradictory statements by top Saudi officials is surprising. Experts believe that the Saudis are trying to establish the lexis of normalization in their literature in order to prevent protests by the people.

The experience of Bahrain and Sudan clearly indicate that the West Asian people reject any sort of normalization with the Israeli regime. But the governments are reluctant to hear their people's voice.

In a recent important interview, Hezbollah chief Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah said that the Palestinian people are committed to resistance despite the normalization deals.

"The main goal of normalization is to disappoint the Palestinian people and make them feel defeated," he said, noting that the Zionist regime intends to dominate Palestine through normalization and move beyond a two-state solution.

"If Israel thinks that through normalization it will be able to form a coalition against the axis of resistance, it is living in an illusion," he elaborated.

According to the Hezbollah chief, the normalization of relations of some Arab countries with the Zionist regime is in Israel's financial interests.

"If Israel establishes economic, diplomatic, and political relations with some Arab countries, it immediately begins to propagate that Arab countries sold Palestine. The goal is to disappoint the Palestinians from their resistance and surrender them."

Nasrallah also underlined that the Palestinian people are committed to the resistance path despite the normalization deals, adding that the people in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the UAE reject normalization

These people cannot be silenced even with oppression and aggression. It's high time Arab governments give a voice to their people.

TEHRAN - Iran's ambassador to Doha, Hamidreza Dehghani, spoke about the details of President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Qatar.

President Raisi and his accompanying delegation visited Doha on Monday morning. He was officially welcomed at the airport by the Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar.

Participating in the Gas Exporting Countries Forum, which will be held on Tuesday at the highest level, is highly important.

The visit by the president to the Qatar is highly significant as Raisi's administration has said it prioritizes relations with neighbors and regional countries.

Hamidreza Dehghani told IRNA on Monday that Qatar has always been a support of dialogue in the region.

"In this regard, we hope that Qatar can play an increasing role in bringing the views between Iran and the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf and the West Asia closer," the ambassador noted.

Schedule of meeting with Iranians living in Oatar

During his two-day stay in Qatar, Raisi plans to meet with the Iranians living in Qatar.

"Iranians living in Qatar are an integral part of their community living in this country and have been in perfect friendship and brotherhood with their brothers and sisters for many years." the ambassador stated.

Dehghani said that Iranians living in Qatar are highly respected. He added they form a large community that play an important role in the Arab country.

"These people have contributed to and helped the security, stability and development of Qatar, so both the



Ambassador elaborates

on Raisi trip to Qatar

people and the government of Qatar remarked have welcomed them and there have been very good relations between

them," the envoy explained. Dehghani went on to say that the number of foreign laborers in Qatar is now more than ever, and now Iran will try to coordinate with the "Qatari friends" about the previous agreements in this regard to send

labor force to the country. Reducing the effects of sanctions on bilateral cooperation

The illegal sanctions imposed on Iran by the United States have had negative impacts on Tehran's relations with the outside world, especially as Washington applies secondary sanctions against countries that do business with Iran.

"Sanctions have had an impact on relations between Iran and all countries, including Qatar," the ambassador said.

He then expressed hope that the two countries could work together in the framework of the national interests of the Tehran and Doha to reduce the effects of these sanctions.

"We will also try for further stability of the region in order to advance the lofty goals of Iran and Qatar," he

He considered the visit of Raisi to Oatar as a very important trip in terms of time and the issues that are discussed.

"This trip is a bilateral trip and Mr. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar, has invited the president of our country."

President Raisi held talks with the Emir of Qatar and other officials of the country.

The Qatari leader and the Iranian president consulted on bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues.

During his first day trip in Doha, Iran and Qatar signed 14 cooperation agreements at the presence of the president and the Emir of Oatar.

The ministers of foreign affairs, oil, transport, tourism and energy signed memorandums of understanding with their foreign counterparts.

"We hope that each of these documents can be effective in expanding and deepening relations between the two countries, although due to the proximity of Iran and Qatar in terms of political, geographical and historical relations, Qatar has always been a good partner for Iran."

He added that Iran has an agreement and cooperates with Qatar in all aspects.

"We are always looking to expand this cooperation and agreements, especially in political, economic and cultural dimensions," he said.

He then expressed hope that the agreements and MOUs will go into effect soon.

Economic for openings businessmen

Dehghani said that one of the goals of the president's trip to Doha is to create opportunities for Iranian and Qatari traders.

Regarding the summit of gas exporting countries and the importance of the meeting, the ambassador said, "This summit will definitely have a great impact on cooperation in the field of oil and gas between the two countries."

In addition, he said that cooperation between gas exporting countries is expanding.

"I thank the cabinet that has made great efforts in recent weeks to increase and promote the agreements and memorandums of understanding between the two countries, and I declare that we do our best to increase relations with the country.'

He then said that Iran wants to cooperate with Qatar as a neighbor, because the policy of the government of President Raisi is to pay attention to neighborhood relations.

He then said that Iran is trying to be able to "define" this neighborhood policy well in Qatar.

The ambassador concluded by stating that Iran appreciates the government, the nation and the Emir of Qatar for inviting the president of Iran.

Foreign Ministry: We will not back down from our red line in Vienna

TEHRAN — The Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Monday the after the return of Iran's top negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani from Tehran to Vienna, the Iranian delegation submitted its proposals on the remaining issues in writing to the P4+1 (Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany).

"The United States cannot see different results with the same policies. If they want to see different results, naturally they should take different action," Saeed Khatibzadeh told his weekly press conference.

"In the framework of the negotiations, all sanctions that are inconsistent with the other parties' commitments and the economic benefits must be lifted," he added.

With regard to holding direct talks with the U.S., he said that the U.S. has "repeatedly called for direct talks and want to raise some issues in direct negotiations with Iran."

Khatibzadeh said that if the Europeans are looking for an agreement and time is important to them, they should know that they cannot raise random issues and every time that they enter the negotiation room, raise a post-JCPOA issue without presenting an initiative.

They think they cannot show flexibility and just make nuclear demands from Iran without helping Tehran to reap economic benefits from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Actions (JCPOA), the official name for the nuclear deal

The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council has ruled out holding talks with the United States during the ongoing sanctions removal talks in Vienna, saying negotiations with the American side is not on the agenda of representatives from the Islamic Republic, Press TV reported.

Ali Shamkhani said in a post published on his Twitter page on Monday that diplomats from Iran and the five remaining signatories to the 2015 deal - Britain, France, Russia, and China plus Germany - and the EU have been negotiating directly in the Austrian capital with the aim of reviving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), adding that "this path will continue unchanged until a result is reached."

The Iranian security chief highlighted that Tehran

has strictly refused to hold any talks with the United States as such negotiations will not contribute to the Vienna talks.

"#ViennaTalks have been going on between #Iran, P4+1 and the representative of EU, from the beginning and this path will continue unchanged until a result is reached. Negotiation with US is not on the agenda of Iranian team because it will not be the source of any progress," he wrote.

The United States left the JCPOA in 2018 and began to implement what it called the "maximum pressure" campaign of sanctions against the Islamic Republic, depriving the country of the economic benefits of the agreement, including the removal of sanctions, for which Iran had agreed to certain caps on its nuclear activities.

In the meantime, the other parties to the deal, in particular France, Britain and Germany, only paid lip service to safeguarding Iran's economic dividends as promised under the JCPOA, prompting Iran after an entire year of "strategic patience" – to reduce its nuclear obligations in a legal move under the deal.

The Vienna talks began last April on the assumption that the U.S., under the Joe Biden administration, is willing to repeal the so-called maximum pressure policy pursued by former President Donald Trump.

Tehran says it will not settle for anything less than the removal of all U.S. sanctions in a verifiable manner. It also wants guarantees that Washington would not abandon the agreement again.

Security chief: Direct negotiations with U.S. not on agenda

He said the scope and number of issues to be resolved have been greatly reduced but the remaining issues are the most difficult ones.

"The definite interests of the Iranian people, Iran's fundamental rights and the country's nuclear achievements are all protected in these negotiations and will remain as an honor for this generation and future generations," he noted.

He went on to say that seeking fundamental rights is a principle.

"If we consider other two or three issues of the other party's commitment, we will enter the final phase. We are still waiting for the decisions of Europe and the United States, and we have not yet seen that will," the diplomat noted.

On the issue of receiving guarantees that the JCPOA will not be violated again, he said, "Legal, political and economic guarantees are guarantees under which initiatives and plans have been made. Negotiations on economic guarantees are also very specific and difficult."

He added that one of the most important guarantees that Iran announced in the negotiations and seriously pursued is the guarantee that Iran "inherently" considers for itself and that is the rapid reversibility of its nuclear plans.

"France, as well as other European countries present at the talks, are well aware of our points and we advise them to focus on the remaining two or three issues in the negotiation room and spend their time and energy on this issue," he suggested.

To reach a meaningful agreement, the Foreign Ministry spokesman added, the Europeans must also stop discussing points in the negotiations room in media.

The spokesman also said the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) is in charge of the negotiations in Vienna. and the leaders of the three branches of government, including the parliament speaker, are members of the SNSC and are aware of the details of the discussions

He added, "In the last one or two months, the foreign minister appeared several times in the Majlis (parliament) and in the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Majlis and presented a report on these talks. Mr. Bagheri has also spoken to members of the Majlis in this regard. We have not and will not back down from our red line during the Vienna talks.

Military chief: Army strongly guard national borders

From page **1** Fr duty to help the people wherever and whenever there is a need, the military chief remarked.

The top general added that the issue of

the country's water rights originating from Afghanistan is being pursued by the officials round the clock, and there are frequent visits, and hopefully it will be resolved as soon as possible.



Iran president visits Qatar 🚽 IRAN IN FOCUS

The Iranian president was received at the airport by Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and was accorded an official reception ceremony in which the Iranian national anthem was played.

President Raisi was seen off at the airport in Tehran by the Deputy Head of the Supreme Leader's Office on International Affairs Hojjatoleslam val-Moslemin Mohsen Qomi, First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber, and a number of cabinet members.

The president's chief of staff, the ministers of foreign affairs, petroleum, transport and urban development, energy, and industry and trade are accompanying Ayatollah Raisi on the trip.

14 agreements and memoranda of understanding were signed between the officials of the two countries.

Upon his arrival in Doha, President Raisi held talks with the Qatari leader. Later the two senior officials talked to

reporters at a joint press conference. At the press briefing, Raisi said Iran is seeking to deepen ties with Qatar. The president also said Iran has proven its loyalty to all regional countries at difficult times.

While in Qatar, President Raisi also planned to hold separate meetings with

Iranians living in Qatar as well as Qatari and Iranian businesspeople.

On the second day of his visit, Ayatollah Raisi will address the sixth Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) summit, according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

The president will also meet with a number of heads of state and government officials attending the summit on its sidelines

Before leaving Tehran for Doha, Ayatollah Raisi expressed hope that that his Qatar visit will be a step towards improving political, economic, and trade ties between the two countries.

Regarding the importance of his visit to Qatar, the president said, "We hope that this visit will be a step towards improving political economic and trade relations between the countries of the region and the countries of the Persian Gulf."

He added, "This visit is taking place at the invitation of Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad, the Honorable Emir of Qatar, with the two goals of our bilateral relations with the friendly, brotherly and neighborly country of Qatar, and participating in the forum of countries producing and exporting gas."

Iran FM meets foreign counterparts at Munich Security Conference

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian met with several foreign officials on the sidelines of the 58th Munich Security Conference

He held talks with his Norwegian counterpart Anniken Huitfeldt as he continued his meetings on the sidelines of the security gathering.

Amir Abdollahian and Huitfeldt exchanged views over bilateral ties, regional and international issues and the nuclear talks in Vienna.

Amir Abdollahian, while expressing pleasure over the recovery of his Norwegian counterpart from Covid, said the one hundred and fifteen-year diplomatic relations between Tehran and Oslo is an excellent basis for further development and expansion of ties between the two countries.

He also announced Iran's readiness to host the Norwegian delegation at the level of the deputy foreign minister to coordinate and follow up on the process of developing relations.

Amir Abdollahian stressed the need to pursue trade and economic ties between Iran and Norway in parallel and regardless of the Vienna talks.

The Iranian foreign minister then stressed, "We can expand cooperation in several areas, especially the oil and gas industry, agriculture, renewable energy and fisheries."

He added, "Fortunately, basic documents and good agreements have been signed between the two countries in the past, and there is a proper basis for expanding cooperation, which requires serious follow-up and implementation of these agreements." Referring to the strategic position of Iran, the top Iranian diplomat described the south and north transit routes of the country as a capacity to facilitate the access of European countries, including Norway, to the Central Asian region and the Caucasus

Ms. Huitfeldt, for her part, welcomed the invitation of her Iranian counterpart to visit Tehran. She also stressed the need for continued political consultations and talks between Tehran and Oslo and the exchange of delegations to pursue the development of relations.

In another part of the meeting, Huitfeldt referred to the situation in Afghanistan and the dire condition of the Afghan people, especially women and children. She praised Iran's efforts to help the Afghan people and host refugees.

The Norwegian foreign minister also expressed hope that after an agreement is reached in the Vienna talks, a new chapter will open in economic relations with Iran. She also said Norway is prepared for the all-out expansion of relations with Iran without restrictions.

in Afghanistan and Yemen. Iran-Spain ties discussed

In one of the latest meetings during his visit to Germany, Amir Abdollahian held talks with his Spanish counterpart José Manuel Albares over bilateral relations, some regional and international issues, as well as the nuclear talks in Vienna.

In the meeting, Amir Abdollahian appreciated Spain for sending a shipment of vaccine as aid for the people of Afghanistan and Afghan refugees.

Referring to the special and complicated situation in Afghanistan, Amir Abdollahian stressed the need for all countries to work to help the people of this country.

The top Iranian diplomat also spoke about the talks on lifting sanctions on Iran in Vienna. He noted that the negotiations have reached a point where the western side needs to make political decisions to reach an agreement, and in this regard, the three European countries in particular must heed their role as signatories to the Iran nuclear deal, JCPOA, and try to respect the legitimate rights and interests of Iran. Regarding relations between Tehran and Madrid, Amir Abdollahian also stressed that it is worthwhile to accelerate cooperation and that there is good potential for expanding relations especially in the fields of medicine, conservation of water resources, new and renewable energies, as well as rail and air transportation.

He also invited his Spanish counterpart to visit Tehran and pursue the development and expansion of bilateral relations.

Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares also said he was pleased to have the opportunity to meet with his Iranian counterpart. Albares also commended Iran for hosting Afghan refugees and announced his country's readiness to cooperate in providing assistance to these displaced people.

He said it was difficult for Madrid to maintain and improve relations in various dimensions with Iran, especially economic ties, during the sanctions. but Spain decided to stay in Iran and this shows the Islamic Republic's importance for the Spanish government and people.

Albares also referred to the fact that his country is holding the presidency of the European Union in the second half of this year, announcing Spain's readiness to interact, cooperate and consult with Iran in the capacity, especially on regional issues.

The foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Spain also held talks over issues related to the West Asian region and the Persian Gulf, as well as the latest developments in Yemen and Afghanistan.



during his visit to the German city of Munich for the 58th Munich Security Conference.

During the meeting, Amir Abdollahian reiterated deep bonds of friendship between the two nations and countries and underlined the necessity of assistance of all countries to improve Lebanon's domestic stability and security and the need for third countries to avoid interference in Lebanon's internal affairs so as to let them advance their own political agenda.

The Iranian foreign minister reviewed the various aspects of the bilateral relations, especially in the economic, cultural and political domains, and underlined the need for the implementation of previous agreements between the two countries to help upgrade relations between Tehran and Beirut in different fields.

Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati also briefed Amir Abdollahian on the latest developments in the country and thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its support for the government and people of Lebanon.

"The people and government of Lebanon will not forget Iran's support for the stability and peace in Lebanon." he said.

The Lebanese premier also stressed the commitment of Lebanon's government in developing and expanding lasting relations with all Islamic countries, especially key influential states in the region, and expressed hope for development of ties between Tehran and Beirut.

During the meeting, the Iranian foreign minister

Iranian skier Saveh Shemshaki announces retirement

TEHRAN - Iranian Alpine skier Hossein Saveh Shemshaki announced his retirement two weeks after he failed a doping test and was suspended from the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

The 36-year-old, who raced for Iran in slalom and giant slalom at Vancouver 2010 and Sochi 2014, tested positive for the anabolic steroid Oral Turinabol ahead of the Games.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) formally confirmed that the Iranian slalom skier was expelled from the Winter Olympic Games.

Saveh Shemshaki had carried the Iranian flag at the Opening Ceremony.

He returned the positive test on February 7 three days after the Opening Ceremony - and did not compete after being placed under a "mandatory provisional suspension".

Shemshaki's case was referred to arbitrator, Austrian judge Martina Spreitzer-Kropiunik at the CAS office in Beijing.

Spreitzer-Kropiunik heard evidence by video link before upholding the decision to disqualify the ski-

She also confirmed that "as the Athlete did not get to compete before the provisional suspension was imposed, there were no results to be disgualified and the Athlete should be declared ineligible to compete in all competitions in which he had not yet participated".

He was ordered to leave the Olympic Village and surrender his Games accreditation.

He could still face further disciplinary action from the International Ski Federation for the offence

Shemshaki has already admitted the offence and has asked for the "Iranian people forgive me for my negligence".

On Monday, he shared a post on his Instagram account and announced he has decided to finish his career.

"Skiing ended for me with its ups and downs. I wanted to have a happy ending but it was different to me. I was going to bid farewell to the sport after Giant Slalom Run 2 in the 2022 Winter Olympics but....." Saveh Shemshaki wrote.

AEK forward Ansarifard on target against PAS Giannina

TEHRAN - Iranian forward Karim Ansarifard scored a goal in AEK's win over PAS Giannina in

The 36-year-old setter joined Turkish volleyball club Fenerbahce in late January.

Iranian President **Raisi presented Qatar football** team's jersey

TEHRAN - Qatar's Emir Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani presented the jersey of his country's national football team to Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi.

The Iranian president arrived in Doha earlier on Monday and was officially welcomed by the Qatari ruler.

During their meeting, the emir presented Qatar's signed jersey, which is symbolically number 22 on the occasion of the 2022 World Cup in the country, to the Iranian president.

Speaking before leaving Tehran for Doha on Monday morning, Raisi said, "We view this visit as a step toward activating diplomacy with neighbors, Persian Gulf countries in particular, and to use their capacities to develop political and economic

He noted that expansion of relations with the friendly and brotherly country of Qatar and attending the Sixth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) in Doha are among the objectives of the trip.

Persepolis midfielder Nemati undergoes hernia surgery

TEHRAN - Persepolis football club midfielder Siamak Nemati underwent surgery to repair a sports hernia on Monday.

Nemati will be sidelined for approximately four weeks

Another midfielder of the club, Omid Alishah, will not be fit until the next month.

It will be a blow to Persepolis since the Reds are looking to win Iran Professional League (IPL) for the sixth time in a row.

Vafaei to attend 2022 European **Snooker Masters**

TEHRAN – The Iranian snooker representative Hossein Vafaei will compete with Anthony McGill in his first step of the competition.

Vafaei will face Anthony McGill on Tuesday and

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SPORTS



The foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Norway also discussed the latest situation

Iran support for Lebanon appreciated

Meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati was held as part of Amir Abdollahian's agenda and the Lebanese prime minister also exchanged views on certain regional issues, especially the situation in the Levant region, the Persian Gulf and Yemen.

Ansarifard and his compatriot Ehsan Hajisafi, both started in a match that would determine their side's place in the domestic league playoffs, and European football next season.

Petros Mantalos scored the first goal in the 69th minute by a header from a corner kick.

Towards the end of regular time, it was Ansarifard who would seal the crucial three points for his side slotting away AEK's second of the night in the 88th minute.

AEK Athens sit in 3rd with 42 points in the Greek Super League, while PAS Giannina are in 5th place with 36 points.

Yet to decide on Marouf's future, top official says

TEHRAN - Mohammadreza Davarzani, head of Islamic Republic of Iran Volleyball Federation (IRIVF), says that they have not vet decided to invite Saeid Marouf to the National Team.

Marouf announced his withdrawal from the national team after they failed to make the guarterfinals of the delayed Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

The captain was not a member of Iran at the 2021 Asian Men's Volleyball Championship in Funabashi, Japan, where Iran won the title.

"Iran vollevball coach Behrouz Ataei will make decision about the players of the national team and he has not yet decided about the player. Marouf is among the best players of his generation but the coach will decide whether to invite him or not. The well-deserved players will be invited to the national team," Davarzani said.

will be hosted by Marshall Arena in Milton Keynes England.

The 2022 European Masters snooker tournament is being held from 21 to 27 February 2022.

If Vafaei wins, he will face the winner of the contest between Mitchell Mann and Thepchaiya Un-Nooh

Mark Selby an English professional snooker player who is a four-time and the reigning World Snooker Champion is considered the defending champion of the tournament.

Iran's women's futsal team beaten by Russia in friendly

TEHRAN - Iran's women's futsal team lost to Russia 5-1 in a friendly match on Monday.

The Iranian team will play Russia once again on Wednesday

Forouzan Soleymani's team prepare for the 2022 AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup which will be held in September

Iran will participate in the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup to win the title for the third time in a row.

The Team have recently won the title in the 2022 CAFA Women's Championship.

The competition was held from January 19 to 28 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Tajikistan, Iran, Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan took part in the tournament.

The CAFA Women's Championship is an international futsal competition in Central Asia for the member nations of the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA).

U.S. bad-faith conduct exacerbates Iran's mistrust

TEHRAN - The negotiators in Vienna are almost done with the text of the potential agreement. But the U.S. continued insistence on moving ahead with its sanctions policy against Iran is hampering the conclusion of the Vienna talks.

On Sunday, a group of more than 250 Iranian lawmakers wrote a letter to the government of Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi to warn against a deal with the United States without sufficient guarantees.

The lawmakers called on the government to obtain guarantees from the U.S. and Europe that they won't quit the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The letter was seen by some observers as an unconstructive move at a time when Iran and its negotiating partners in Vienna are coming closer than ever to announcing a deal after months of painstaking negotiations.

But the letter was quite justifiable given the U.S. reluctance to break with the policies that created the current crisis in the first place: the U.S. sticking to sanctions.

Iran has long said that it does not trust the U.S. and it's not sure that the U.S. will honor its commitments if a deal is reached. This is partly because Washington not only refused to guarantee that it won't renege on its commitments under a revived JCPOA but refrained from making a solid commitment that it won't impose new sanctions after reviving the nuclear deal.

Quite on the contrary, the Biden administration is paving the way for more sanctions on Iran after the revival of the JCPOA. A senior U.S. official on the Iran team in the Biden administration has assessed that the White House is still pursuing a "longer" and "stronger" deal with Iran.

The official outlined the steps the U.S. would take to implement what Biden called a "smarter" policy toward Iran the Tehran Times has learned. In September 2020, then-candidate Biden lambasted the Trump administration's "maximum pressure" policy toward Iran as "empty" and "dangerous failure."

Biden advocated for a "smarter" policy instead. One whose pillars would be premised on restoring the JCPOA and then using it as a "starting point for follow-on negotiations" which were supposed to result in a "longer and stronger" deal

But as the Vienna talks faced growing difficulties over the last weeks the "longer and stronger" deal objective faded from public statements issued by the Biden administration but not from the U.S. agenda.

The U.S. official said the Biden administration seeks to keep a set of economic sanctions in place in order to use them as leverage at a later stage to "strengthen and lengthen" the JCPOA and address other forms of Iran's behavior.

The official made it clear that the U.S. wants to keep the pressure on Iran even after revving the JCPOA, a position that helps explain why Iran remains so doubtful of U.S. proclamations on its readiness to lift sanctions

The U.S. official laid out a strategy for working within the framework of the JCPOA to address other foreign policy goals that have long been on various U.S. administrations' agenda - countering Iran's influence in the region and its military capabilities.

In a sense, the official outlined a "more for more" strategy devised for the period after the revival of the JCPOA. According to this strategy, if Iran wants further relief from pressures, it must make more concessions on issues of interest to the U.S.

To make things even worse, the official even boasted about the Biden administration's ability to impose sanctions on Iran for non-nuclear reasons and vowed to keep the ability even after the resuscitation of the **JCPOA**

Obviously, this goes against what Iran has been pursuing in the Vienna talks. Iran has said time and again that it needs guarantees from the U.S. that Washington won't quit the deal nor will it impose new sanctions. But if the U.S. continues to make plans for how to keep Iran under pressure, this would likely discourage Iran from accepting the U.S. return to the JCPOA.

ECONOMY

FEBRUARY 22, 2022 Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

Oil minister holds talk with GECF secretary general



Oil Minister Javad Oji (R) and GECF Secretary General Mohamed Hamel

TEHRAN – Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji, who is visiting Doha to attend the 6th Summit of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), met with the forum's Secretary General Mohamed Hamel on Monday.

He also met with his counterparts from Algeria, Venezuela, Qatar and Nigeria on the mentioned day, Shana reported.

During these talks, areas such as gas swap, technology transfer, technical knowledge, and investment in oil and gas fields were

discussed.

Some documents and agreements were also prepared during these talks, which will be signed in the presence of the Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, if finalized.

The 6th Summit of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum is slated to be held on Tuesday in Qatar Capital Doha.

The 5th GECF Summit was convened in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea on November 29, 2019, under the patronage of Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of Equatorial Guinea. The Meeting was attended by President of Nigeria Muhammadu Buhari.

The Iranian delegation attending the summit was headed by Mohammad Nahavandian, the country vice president at the time.

The Gas Exporting Countries Forum is an international governmental organization that provides the framework for exchanging experience and information among member countries.

Iran, Algeria, Bolivia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela are the permanent members of GECF and Azerbaijan, Iraq, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Norway, Oman, and Peru have the status of observer members. From page **1** ► He noted that the trade relations between the two countries are far less than ideal and urged the officials of the two countries to take the necessary actions to compensate for the existing shortcoming and to remove barriers in the way of trade between the two sides.

Fatemi-Amin further underlined the significance of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee meeting, saying that this meeting would be the first step in expanding the economic relations between the two countries.

Iranian, Uzbek governments determined to develop trade ties

Elsewhere in the meeting, Umarzakov pointed to the determination of the presidents of Iran and Uzbekistan for broadening of trade ties, noting that over the past five months the two countries' presidents have met twice and this shows their determination for the expansion of mutual ties.

He further mentioned that the Iran-Uzbekistan Joint Economic Committee meeting has been held after two years, saying: "We should increase our efforts to make this event an annual one."

The Uzbek deputy prime minister said he has received clear directives from his president to take all the necessary measures for the expansion of mutual trade ties between the two countries.

He also mentioned his meeting with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and stated that President Raisi has also shown a determination for the development of economic relations.

Iran-Uzbekistan trade stands at less than \$500 million at present, while the presidents of the two countries have anticipated an outlook of \$1 billion.

Iran, Uzbekistan to draw roadmap for expanding economic ties



A joint committee to be formed to pursue implementation of agreements

The official pointed to the fact that the volume of trade between the two countries has decreased over the past few years partly because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and partly because of transport and banking issues and noted that three major steps should be taken to resolve the situation.

"The first step would be strengthening of relations between the two countries' private sectors, the second one will be the establishment of a barter trade mechanism between the two sides, and the third step would be holding joint exhibitions in the two countries," Umarzakov explained.

Iron ore pellet

output stands

at 46 million

tons in past

year

He also stressed the need for the expansion of industrial cooperation in free and special economic zones of the two countries and also increasing joint investment.

The Uzbek official further noted that a joint committee will also be formed at the end of the committee, which will monitor and follow up the implementation of the agreements reached between the two sides.

Expansion of agricultural coop on the agenda

Elsewhere in the meeting, Uzbekistan's Agriculture Minister Jamshid Khodjaev mentioned a meeting with his Iranian counterpart before the joint economic committee meeting and said during that meeting positive agreements have been reached.

According to Khodjaev, the outcomes of the mentioned meeting have been mainly focused on two major areas namely the development of educational and research cooperation as well as implementing joint investment projects to increase the level of trade in the agricultural sector.

Uzbekistan to use Iranian ports to develop transit

Uzbekistan's Transport Minister Ilkhom Makhkamov, in another part of the meeting, pointed to the great capacities of Iran's southern ports including Chabahar and Bandar Abbas, and said, Uzbekistan is eager to use the capacities of the Iranian ports to develop transit through the country.

He noted that an official delegation from his ministry visited the Iranian Chabahar Port back in January to explore the avenues of mutual cooperation through this port.

Makhkamov also stressed the need for the activation of the existing transport corridors as well as establishing new ones in order to develop the trade ties and transit between the two countries.

The official mentioned the existing transport corridors between the two countries including Iran-Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan and Iran-Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Afghanistan as well as Iran-Uzbekistan-Turkey-Turkmenistan, saying that the two sides should make use of these capacities to expand mutual trade.

He noted that despite all the hardships, the transport cooperation between the two countries has been following an upward trend in all areas including road, air, maritime, and rail transportation.

Japan eyes investment in Iranian ports in post-sanction era

TEHRAN – Japanese Ambassador to Tehran Kazutoshi Aikawa has visited Iran's southern Shahid Rajaee Port to explore areas of mutual interest for future cooperation, the portal of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) reported on Monday.

During his visit to the port in Hormozgan Province, Aikawa also met with Alireza Mohammadi Karaji-Ran, head of the province's Ports and Maritime Department, to discuss ways of expanding economic cooperation between the two countries through the mentioned port.

Speaking in this meeting, the ambassador expressed hope that with the lifting of the U.S. sanctions the relations between Iran and Japan will return to their previous state and Japan will be able to invest in Iranian ports like Shahid Rajaee.

"We hope that with the lifting of sanctions, maritime exchanges and joint cooperation of Japanese private companies will resume in Shahid Rajaee Port," Aikawa said.

Referring to the long-standing friendly relations between the two countries, he continued: "Strengthening and expanding trade relations with Iran is very important for us and Shahid Rajaee Port as an important port in the region can play an important role in developing trade between the two countries."



Japanese Ambassador to Tehran Kazutoshi Aikawa (1st L) and Head of Hormozgan Province Ports and Maritime Department Alireza Mohammadi Karaji-Ran (1st R)

countries, adding: "As the ambassador of Japan, I will convey the advantages and capacities mentioned in this meeting to the Japanese economic officials to pave the way for further cooperation."

Further in the meeting, Mohammadi Karaji-Ran pointed to the investment opportunities and advantages of Shahid Rajaee Port, and stated: "Over 80 percent of Iran's transit is carried out through this port, in addition to the existence of modern container equipment, connection to the national railway line, access to Bandar Abbas International Airport, the existence of lands available for industrial activities, as well as access to open waters and the existence of modern terminals are the most important advantages of this port."

Iron ore pellet production rises 21% in 10 months on year

TEHRAN – Production of iron ore pellet in Iran increased by 21 percent in the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021-January 20, 2022), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) announced.

IMIDRO said that more than 31.358 million tons of iron ore pellets were produced in the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year, while the figure was 25.992 million tons in the same time span of the previous year.

As reported, Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company was the largest

producer of pellets during the ten-month period with 10.37 million tons of production, followed by Middle East Mines and Mineral Industries Development Holding Company (MIDHCO) with 4.78 million tons, Sangan Mining Industries to produce 41.7 million tons of pellets in the preceding year.

According to the data, Golgohar was the largest producer of pellets in the said year with 12.2 million tons of production, followed by Mobarakeh Steel Company with 7.3 million tons, MIDHCO with 6.2 million tons, and Khouzestan Steel Company with 5.5 million tons.

Iran's iron ore pellet production capacity exceeded 66 million tons in the previous Iranian calendar year.

IMIDRO'sreportonunder-constructionpelletiron orepelletproduction unitsin Iran indicatesthat a total of25.92 million tons areexpectedto beadded toIran's iron orepelletproductioncapacity by thetimetheseunits arepastin the fiscal year 1402 (2023-24).

Production of iron ore concentrate also reached 49.714



mentioned product in the Iranian calendar year 1398.

Last year, major mining companies also produced 902,454 tons of granulated iron ore, to register a decrease of 54 percent compared to the preceding year (1,965,733 tons).

In its outlook plan for the Iranian calendar year 1404 (2025-2026) Iran has envisaged production of 55 million tons of steel per annum, and to achieve this target the country requires to extract 160 million tons of iron ore.

Referring to the improvement of Japan's port policies over the past few years, the official described maritime development as one of his country's most important goals, saying: "We seek to expand our maritime cooperation with other countries for smartening of our ports."

Aikawa said that Shahid Rajaee Port, considering its existing capacities, can pave the way for the presence of investors from other

Referring to the position of Shahid Rajaee Port as an important point in the north-south corridor, he stated: "Faster transportation routes and high security have made Iran the best point for transit, and Shahid Rajaee Port is considered the hub for such activities." Company with 3.385 million tons, —

Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company with 3.152 million tons, and Opal Parsian Sangan Industrial and Mining Company with 2.736 million tons.

The data released by IMIDRO indicate that iron ore pellet production by major Iranian mining companies exceeded 46 million tons in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2021), registering a 10 percent growth year on year.

The mentioned companies had managed

million tons during the previous calendar year to register a five-percent rise year on year.

According to the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry data, of the mentioned figure 3.533 million tons were produced in the last month of the previous year (February 19-March 20, 2021).

As reported, the country's major iron ore concentrate producers had managed to produce about 47.306 million tons of the In a bid to prevent the exports of unprocessed minerals, creating more valueadded and meeting the requirements of domestic producers for the raw materials, Iran has levied a 25-percent duty on the exports of raw minerals (especially iron ore) since September 2019.

The duty is aimed at encouraging the production of more processed minerals such as pellets and concentrate instead of selling the raw minerals.

IME's weekly trades value increases 40%

TEHRAN- The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) rose 40 percent in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), as compared to its previous week.

According to a report by the IME's International Affairs and Public Relations Department, 2.514 million tons of commodities worth \$702 million were traded at the exchange, indicating also a 39-percent weekly growth in terms of weight.

The exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 2.2 million tons of commodities valued at almost \$472 million.

Commodities sold on this floor included 1.059 million tons of cement, 626,000 tons of iron ore, 400,486 tons of steel, 92,000 tons of sponge iron, 10,000 tons of cast iron, 7,100 tons of aluminum, 6,980 tons of copper, 1,000 tons of coke, 935 tons of zinc ingots, 150 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 21 tons of precious metals concentrate and 1 kg of gold bars. Furthermore, the IME saw trade 304,048 tons of commodities on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor valued almost \$222 million.

The exchange customers purchased on this floor 116,840 tons of bitumen, 90,265 tons of polymeric products, 45,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 24,000 tons of lube cut, 22,907 tons of chemicals, 3,750 tons of sulfur, 2,609 tons of base oil, 800 tons of slops wax and 150 tons of argon.

Last but not least was the IME's side market with 8,820 tons of commodities traded on it.

As previously reported, more than 7.297 million tons of commodities worth over \$2 billion were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange in the tenth Iranian calendar month (ended on January 20).

The exchange sold on both domestic

and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor more than 1.529 million tons of commodities worth over \$856 million.

On this floor the exchange traded 415,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 490,000 tons of bitumen, 306,534 tons of polymeric products, 171,000 tons of lube cut, 108,463 tons of chemicals, 26,285 tons of sulfur, 14,653 tons of oil, 450 tons of argon and 225 tons of insulation.

Next was the metals and minerals trading floor with trades of 5.724 million tons of commodities valued at more than \$1 billion.

Commodities changing hands on this floor included 3.606 million tons of cement, 1.332 million tons of steel, 367,000 tons of iron ore, 241,000 tons of sponge iron, 35,090 tons of aluminum, 133,340 tons of zinc, 26,911 tons of copper, 630 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 500 tons of coke, 500 tons of lead, 42 tons of

precious metals concentrate and 23 kg of gold bars.

On its agricultural trading floor the exchange saw offering of 50 kg of saffron strands.

It's worth noting that the IME also played host to trade of 43,899 tons of commodities on its side market.

The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2021) rose 108 percent compared to the preceding year.

During the past year, about 3.5 quadrillion rials (about \$83.5 billion) worth of commodities were traded at the mentioned market.

In the past year, several new records were achieved in terms of the volume and value of transactions in the mentioned market's various floors including the industrial, petroleum, and petrochemical floors.

TEDPIX gains 7,000 points on Monday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 7,232 points to 1.281 million on Monday.

As reported, over 6.94 billion securities worth 38.902 trillion rials (about \$149.6 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 5,047 points, and the second market's index gained 15,340 points.

TEDPIX dropped 2,000 points (less than one percent) to 1.282 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

During the past week, the indices of Mobarakeh Steel Company, Tehran Oil Refining Company, Iran Khodro Company, Saipa Company, and National Iranian Copper Company were the most widely followed ones.

Government Economic Coordination Headquarters in its meeting in the last week of January approved five new resolutions for supporting the country's stock market, and the directives in this regard were sent to relative ministries, First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber announced at the time.

From page **1** From page **1** the Yemeni armed forces repelling a major offensive by the Saudiled coalition in Harad after Yemen carried out a counter operation to liberate and retake control of large districts in the city.

According to Yemeni media, the Saudi-led incursion took at least two main paths with the participation of Saudi Arabian brigades and army forces as well as Sudanese militants. The first came southeast of the city towards the al-Hayjah mountain range, and the second south of the city also towards the al-Hayjah mountain range, with the aim of occupying the city from several directions.

Footage from Yemen's military media shows the Yemeni army and the popular committees were able to confront the Saudi-led forces and inflict heavy losses on both lives and military equipment.

According to Yemeni media, various military units of Yemen's armed forces participated in the battle. The Saudi-led coalition enjoyed a wide array of air cover including advanced American-made warplanes, spy planes; with plenty of firepowers as well as artillery fire.

Yemen's own missile and Air Force launched"precision operations" targeting the gatherings and camps of the Saudi-led coalition and its communication networks with ballistic missiles and drones which the Yemeni army says inflicted great losses on the Saudi military.

According to the Yemeni army, an artillery unit managed to double the Saudi-led material and human losses, with continuous and accurate targeting of the coalition's gatherings and fortifications on Yemeni territory.

The footage released shows the Yemeni army destroying a large number of Saudi armored vehicles, which were forced to retreat back to the Kingdom.

The scenes also indicate that the Yemeni army and the people's committees successfully launched the counter operation to break the siege on Harad city and advance from the "Al-Husnain region and southeast Harad" to restore the districts and villages.

The footage also shows a number of dead bodies from the Saudi-led coalition, prisoners falling into the hands of Yemeni forces; and a mass escape of soldiers, militants, and armored vehicles while under attack by the Yemeni army. The footage also shows, what Yemeni reports say, is a part of what the army seized from the Saudi-led coalition including various vehicles, weapons, and ammunition.

Yemeni media say the losses of

Saudi offensive in Yemen suffers major setback



ten, including seven children, aged

between one and a half and 14 years.

Political Council, Muhammad Ali

al-Houthi, has condemned the

targeting of the family home. He

stressed that continuing to target

the Yemeni people is a war crime

Meanwhile, a private Yemeni

military source has told the

Lebanese based Al-Mayadeen news

channel that the Saudi-led coalition

forces "advanced on Harad from the

south and the east, and surrounded

the entire city, imposing a siege that

The Yemeni military source spoke

about the details of the battle of

Harad, stressing that "the setback

of the Saudi-led coalition in Harad

is the largest of its kind, and the

battles that took place were very

According to the source, "the

operation of the Saudi forces on

the city of Harad is the largest

among all previous operations on

the same front, and it began on

February 4, 2022," noting that "the

Saudis formed forces from ten

brigades. Among the forces were

two Saudi battalions and a brigade

The source also explained that

"the military force of mercenaries

was established under an agreement

between the Saudi leadership, the

commander of the joint forces of

the coalition, Brigadier Mutlaq Al-

Azima," and "it was agreed that

Saudi Arabia would pay the late

salaries from the beginning of 2021

to the mercenaries, and pay 15,000

The source also indicated that

"the Saudi enemy's operation lasted

for six days, during which they

imposed a military siege on the city,

Saudi rivals for each fighter".

of Sudanese "mercenaries".

and deliberate terrorism.

lasted six days".

violent."

A member of Yemen's Supreme

the Saudi-led coalition amounted to more than 580 dead and wounded, including more than 200 deaths. The fatalities and injured are said to include members of the Saudi Arabian army as well as Sudanese militants.

More than "40 military vehicles and armored vehicles, including a communications vehicle and minesweeper", were destroyed, burned, and "more than 60 Katyusha missiles were destroyed, a CH4 spy plane, a small spy plane, and seven heavy and medium weapons were damaged and destroyed", the army said.

The scenes show the army and committees were able to target Saudi soldiers, pursuing their vehicles, damaging them while others are seen burning. The footage also documents the advance of the Yemeni army and the committees towards the positions of the coalition forces, and how they regained control of them after those forces fled and withdrew, despite the coalition's planes bombing the battle zone; in an attempt to obstruct the advance of Yemeni forces.

However, as a result of the Yemeni army's latest ground achievement, heavy air raids by the Saudi-led coalition resulted in a number of Yemeni civilian casualties; in particular a direct hit on the house of Ahmed Muhammad Tamri.

Yemeni reporters in Hajjah say that one person was killed and eight wounded from the same family, most of them women and children, including an elderly person; which they described as a preliminary outcome as residents were still removing rubble and debris from the family home.

Later, journalists reported that the number of wounded had risen to and closed all its entrances during these days."

The source continued: "With the siege imposed on Harad, the enemy failed to make any progress towards the city, then retreated, then repeated its attacks dozens of times and failed."

The source explained that "the coalition forces surrounded the entire city, imposing a siege for six days, before collapsing under the strikes of the [Yemeni] army and committees from inside and outside Harad".

The military source said that "the attacks of the [Yemeni] army and the popular committees continued, and were able to expand the region of ??open areas leading to Harad in an unprecedented manner," noting that "after the siege was lifted from Harad, the Yemeni armed forces imposed a more comprehensive and larger military cordon on the coalition fighters from outside the city".

The source stated that "the Saudi coalition forces mobilized their heavy weapons, rockets, and artillery, at the outskirts of Harad, and proceeded to bombard the city with artillery, warplanes, tanks, and missiles, in the most violent manner since the beginning of the aggression. After that, the coalition forces incurred hundreds of deaths, including a large number of leaders in the offensive".

As for the Yemeni missile force, the source says it "carried out heavy strikes, which sometimes amounted to ten missiles per night, targeting the gathering points of the enemy forces, vehicles, and individuals, and destroying the communications of the Saudi-led forces".

This is while the Yemeni sniper unit contributed "to thwarting the progress of the Saudi-led forces, and achieved record numbers of dead".

According to the source, "swarms of spy and warplanes took turns flying and bombing the city of Harad, and failed to prevent the collapse," stressing that "the coalition forces tried to establish their control by throwing many of their leaders into the middle of the battle, which doubled their losses and failed to establish their forces on the ground".

The army forces and the popular committees continue to launch their operations in more than one axis in different directions to liberate districts adjacent to Harad.

Military experts say that the military losses of the Saudi-led coalition in Harad is a reflection of its confusion and the Kingdom's constant search for any type of victory in Yemen.

The war on Yemen began in March 2015

INTERNATIONAL

FEBRUARY 22, 2022 Straight Truth **TEHRAN TIMES**

Normalization of ties with Israel exposes oligarchy: analyst

"Misplaced 'trust' in Israel is a false sentiment"

conflating

Zionism with

Judaism has

been part of

to prevent

critics of

Israel's racist

adopting a

tough stance

against it.

From page **1** Such misplaced "trust" is a false sentiment if they view the apartheid regime as their guarantor.

Indeed the most important implication of "normalization" is the fact that the majority of Arabs, Muslims and Christians alike within the Persian Gulf region, would question the morality of these leaders turning their backs on Palestine.

What are the advantages or disadvantages of cozy ties between Israel and these two Arab states for the Arab world and the region?

There cannot be an advantage for the Arab world nor for the region.

This is borne out by the fact that underpinning the "normalization" agenda is the destabilizing of the region to engender a climate of militarization.

It seeks to entrench Arab dependency on American/Israeli hegemony and to undermine the fortress of Resistance led by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

How is Israel trying to conflate Judaism with the ideology The trick of of Zionism to deceive and distort reality?

The trick of conflating Zionism with Judaism has been part of myths designed to prevent critics of its racist construct from adopting a tough stance myths designed against it.

It's a foolish and naive strategy that, unlike the past, will not succeed in a climate of violent repression of Palestinians. construct from

For instance, the visuals of Zionist brutality in Sheikh Jarrah and in Al Quds are broadcast widely via mainstream media as well as social media platforms.

The horror of Zionist terrorism is thus recognized as a characteristic of its racism, far removed from Judaism.

What is Israel's record in supporting tyrannical states from Iran's Shah to Arab monarchies?

Israel has a terrible record in supporting tyrannical states. We see



the evidence of it today in the ties it has developed via U.S. pressure to keep (Persian) Gulf sheikdoms in power.

Indeed as it cultivated the Shah's throne which to its surprise was extremely fragile in the face of a popular revolution, so will it discover that propping up despots is not sustainable.

> Israel's record in Iran during the reign of the Shah points to an era of inhumane atrocities committed against the population. Notwithstanding security agreements and many more forms of assurances, the Peacock Throne collapsed just as the current goldgilded thrones of Arab monarchies are likely to bite the dust.

Do you think the Arab states want to get rid of the Palestine cause?

Arab regimes across the Persian Gulf as well as some in Africa, Morocco and Sudan, by virtue of embracing Israel via "normalization", have signaled their desire to get

rid of Palestine's just cause.

As front-line states, they have opted to ignore and downplay the Palestinian plight. In fact, their disgusting behavior and conduct as evident in both Riyadh and Dubai leaves no doubt that the Palestinian cause is of no consequence for them.

Biden agrees in principle to Ukraine summit with Putin

U.S. President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin have agreed in principle to a summit over Ukraine, the French leader said on Monday, offering a possible path out of one of the most dangerous European crises in decades.

Financial markets edged higher on the glimmer of hope for a diplomatic solution even as satellite imagery appeared to show Russian deployments closer to Ukraine's border, while sounds of fighting were heard on Monday in the east, where Ukrainian government forces are fighting pro-Russian separatists.

The office of French President Emmanuel Macron said in a statement he had pitched to both leaders a summit on "security and strategic stability in Europe." In a statement, the White House said Biden had accepted the meeting "in principle" but only "if an invasion hasn't happened".

"We are always ready for diplomacy," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said. "We are also ready to impose swift and severe consequences, should Russia instead choose war."

Messages seeking comment from the Kremlin and the office

of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy were not immediately returned early on Monday.

Few details of the proposed summit, announced after a volley of phone calls between Macron, Biden, Putin, Zelenskiv, and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, are clear.

Macron's office and the White House said the substance of the plan would be worked out by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov during their meeting planned for Feb. 24.

What role Ukraine would play in the summit, if any, was also uncertain.

A Biden administration official said in an email that the summit was "completely notional" as the timing and format had yet to be determined.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said there was a pressing need for talks to avoid war, while Germany said Russia should come back to the negotiating table.

While oil prices fell, Asian share markets pared losses and Wall Street futures rallied on news of the possible summit, Michael McFaul, a former U.S. ambassador



frayed when the Belarusian

defense ministry announced that

Russia would extend military drills

in Belarus that had been due to end

U.S.-based satellite imagery

company Maxar reported multiple

new deployments of Russian

military units in forests, farms,

and industrial areas as little as 15

km (9 miles) from the border with

On Sunday, Blinken said the

extension of the exercises in

Belarus, bordering Ukraine to the

north, made him more worried

that Russia was on the brink of an

attack and every opportunity had

on Sunday.

Ukraine.

to Russia, said he was skeptical it would happen.

"But if Biden and Putin did meet. they should invite (Zelenskiy) to join," he said in a message posted on Twitter.

News of Macron's proposal comes after a week of heightened tension spurred by Russia's military buildup.

Russian forces have been massing around its neighbour since late last year, in what Western countries say is a prelude to an invasion that could come at any moment.

Russia denies any intention to invade, but nerves were further

to be taken to get diplomacy to work.

Belarus said Russian troops would go home from the exercises when there was "an objective need" to do so, the Interfax news agency said.

In a letter to UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet, seen by Reuters, the United States raised concern that "further Russian invasion of Ukraine may create a human rights catastrophe", including the possible rounding up and killing of opponents.

Sporadic shelling

Sporadic shelling across the line dividing Ukrainian government forces and pro-Russian separatists in the east has intensified since Thursday.

Sounds of fighting were heard again on Monday, including a blast in the centre of the separatist-held city of Donetsk. The cause was not known.

The rebels said two civilians were killed in shelling by Kyiv government forces, Russia's RIA news agency said. Russian media reported 61,000 evacuees from east Ukraine had crossed into Russia.

Kyiv has accused pro-Russian

forces of shelling their own compatriots in the breakaway region in order to blame the attacks on Ukrainian government forces.

Western countries are preparing sanctions thev say would be wide-reaching against Russian companies and individuals in case of an invasion, including steps to bar U.S. financial institutions from processing transactions for major Russian banks, people familiar with the matter said.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson told the BBC such measures could include curbs on Russian businesses' access to the dollar and the pound.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told German broadcaster ARD that Russia "would in principle be cut off from the international financial markets" and from major European exports.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said it was time for the West to impose at least part of the sanctions it has prepared, but the Biden administration has declined to do so, saying their deterrent effect would be lost if used too soon.

TOURISM

FEBRUARY 22, 2022 Straight Truth **TEHRAN TIMES**

Tour guides able to nullify Iranophobia, minister says

TEHRAN - Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami has said tour guides have considerable potential to foil anti-Iranian sentiment, also known as Iranophobia.

"Iranian tour guides by expressing the country can fight against the so-called Iranophobia, which certain countries are trying to spread," Zarghami said.

He made the remarks on Monday addressing an online event organized to mark the International Tourist Guide Day.

Some experts believe even before the coronavirus pandemic, Iran's tourism was already grappling with some challenges, on top of those Western "media propaganda" aimed at scaring potential travelers away from the Islamic Republic. They say Iran is still somehow "unknown" for many potential travelers due to such a "media war".

Many consider bright prospects for the tourism sector of the country if it vigorously



pursues comprehensive strategies to counter U.S.-led propaganda and strict sanctions, yet does its best to loosen tough travel regulations.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

A foodie paradise where it's not just food on the menu

page 1 🕨 Rooted traditional Persian medicine, these beliefs are still very popular even in educated Iranian families. The ancient theory states that only a balanced diet with proportions of both types of food keeps people physically and mentally healthy.

For instance, some types of food such as lamb meat, onion, wheat, dates, nuts, and grapes are Warm and others such as beef, yogurt, cheese, cucumber, fish, beans, and rice are Cold.

With its fabulous vibrant regional dishes featuring in stews, rice dishes, kebabs, beverages, and desserts, Persian cuisine has always been and still is, rich in fresh herbs such as basil, parsley, chives, cress, and mint. In Iran, herbs are usually measured by the kilogram rather than the bunch!

Apart from that, a supporting role is played by magic spices like The widely praised Zereshk Polo saffron and fruits such as plums, ba Morgh is made with Zereshk pomegranates, quinces, and (barberries), Morgh (chicken), and raisins.

rice. It is one of the mixed rice On the whole, rice and bread dishes served at both small casual constitute the main side dishes of gatherings and larger dinner the cuisine, which are served with parties, weddings, and even at various stews with and without the most festive celebrations and meat or with grilled meat on a holidays. skewer (Kababs). The hugely popular Khoresht is

The famed Kabab-e Kubideh is a typical Iranian dish with grilled ground meat made from lamb or beef or a combination of these, but always with grated onions and spices.

Another traditional Iranian dish is Sabzi Polo ba Mahi, which means spiced rice with fish. Sabzi stands for herbs, Polo for rice, and Mahi for fish. Traditional herbs used in its rice include garlic chives, coriander,



parsley, and dill.

most famous.

bottom of the pot.

Reshteh, the thick noodle soup with beans and herbs that is intensely aromatic, astonishingly delicious, nutrient rich and a wholesome meal by itself. Served during various festivities leading up to Noruz, the Persian New Year, the dish is defined by two uniquely ingredients: Reshteh and Kashk.

Those cited here are just a few picks of hugely popular dishes that can be found on the streets of major cities or little towns as well as in the country's finest restaurants. Bear in mind that many restaurants mostly skip labor-intensive dishes. Instead, they tend to focus on kebabs and rice.

For a foreign traveler, the best chance to taste a frank dish may be to score an invitation to the home of an Iranian friend.

Finally, don't forget to try Ash-

the umbrella term for Persian stew

dishes with Fesenjan, an original

Iranian Khoresht, being one of the

Also, a classic among the side

dishes is Tahdig which lures people

with its crispy golden bottom and

fluffy interior. It is usually prepared

by sauteing it with oil or butter to

create a crispy layer of rice at the

Mausoleum of Bayhaqi, the 12th-century Persian polymath and historian, restored



TEHRAN – The mausoleum of Abu'l-Hasan Bayhaqi who was a 12th-century Persian polymath and historian of Arab descent, has undergone some rehabilitation works, a local Iranian official has said.

A restoration project was conducted recently on the eastern parts of the mausoleum, which were damaged by heavy rains, Mohammad Ali Ebrahimidust said on Monday.

The current mausoleum, which is located in Sabzevar county of the northeastern Khorasan Razavi province, was built in

1974.

Known as Ibn Fondoq, Beyhaqi authored over 70 works ranging from Arabic grammar to astrology to philology.

Sabzevar, located in the west of Khorasan Razavi province, has over 100 historical and natural sites inscribed on the National Heritage list.

The history of Sabzevar goes back to the first millennium BC. After the Mongol invasion of Iran, the city was the first part of Iran that moved towards its freedom, under the lead of the Sarbedaran movement.

In the 14th century, Timur, the Turco-Mongol conqueror and the founder of the Timurid Empire, invaded Iran, and despite the brave defense of people in Sabzevar, the city was destroyed quite completely. It is said that about 90,000 people have been massacred by Timur. After killing all men in the town, he cut their heads and made three pyramids of the heads in a city square, which is known as Sarberiz (literally means place of heads) square nowadays.

Inherited relics donated to Sanandaj museum

TEHRAN -A total of 71 historical relics have recently been donated to Sanandaj Anthropology Museum in western Kordestan province, the provincial tourism chief said on Monday.

The relics, which the donor has inherited from ancestors, include glazed and unglazed earthenware jars, cookware, as well as wooden and metal chests, Yaqub Guylian said on Monday.

The objects will go on display at the museum after expert evaluation, preparation of identification labels, and numbering, the official added.

In addition to displaying the culture, history, and context of the life of the people of the region, these objects may facilitate the preservation and transmission of information for future generations, he noted.

Currently, some 800 cultural heritage museums are active across Iran and some three million historical objects are being kept at museums affiliated with the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and handicrafts Ministry.

Iran is home to one of the world's oldest continuous major civilizations, embracing



settlements dating back to 4000 BC. It also hosts some of the world's oldest cultural monuments including bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, gardens, rich natural, rural landscapes as well as 26 UNESCO World Heritage

The name of Iran, formerly known as Persia, mostly conjures up the first Persian Empire, ruled by the Achaemenids (ca. 550 – 330 BC) and sites such as Pasargadae and Persepolis. However, there are tens of prehistorical sites as the Burnt City in Sistan-Baluchestan, Tepe Sialk in Kashan, Susa, and Tchogha Zanbil in the Khuzestan province, and Ecbatana in Hamedan which predate the Achaemenid period.

From a wider point of view, Iranian history can be divided into Pre-Islamic and Islamic eras. The Medes unified Iran as a nation and empire in 625 BC. The Islamic conquest of Persia (633-656) that put an end to the mighty Sassanid Empire (224–651) was a turning point in the history of the nation

Kordestan also spelled Kurdistan, is bounded by the Iranian region of Azarbaijan on the north, and it borders Iraq on the west. The name Kordestan means "Country of the Kurds," referring to the region's principal inhabitants. After the Turkish invasion of Iran in the 11th century CE (Seljuk period), the name Kordestan was applied to the region comprising the northwestern Zagros Mountains

It was during the reign of the Safavid monarch, Shah Abbas the Great, that the Kurds rose to prominence, having been enlisted by Abbas I to help stem the attacks of the marauding Uzbeks from the east in the early 17th century.

Clay horse figurine discovered in Susa

TEHRAN – An Iranian farmer has became part of the Persian Empire recently discovered a clay horse under Cyrus II, the Great in 538 or 539 figurine while working on his land BC. ranch in Susa, southwest Iran.

It is said that Alexander of



Ahasuerus of Persia, to sabotage Haman's plan. The episode is commemorated every year in the Jewish Purim festival which is marked

Armenian minister, envoy visit National Museum of Iran

TEHRAN - On Monday, Armenian Minister of Justice Karen Andreasyan, who was accompanied by Yerevan's ambassador to Tehran Arsen Avakian.



"A farmer encountered an earthen horse figurine while working on his land in the village of Seyyed Razi of Susa... He then immediately informed cultural heritage authorities for taking over the object," a local police commander said on Sunday.

It should be noted that based on the preliminary assessment, the discovered object was identified as having historical authenticity, the commander added, IRNA reported.

The UNESCO-designated Susa, now situated near the modern city of Shush, is one of Iran's most treasured sights. Susa is identified as Shushan in the Book of Esther and other Biblical books.

It was once the winter residence of Persian kings after having been captured by Cyrus the Great. Susa

Macedonia captured Susa in 330 BC and plundered the city, seizing some 40,000 talents of gold and silver from the treasury. Alexander the Great initiated Shushan's decline by favoring Babylon and shortly after, following a revolt, the city was burnt to the ground. Subsequently rebuilt by Sapor II (309-379 CE), it was renamed Iranshahr Shapur and later helped in the resistance against the Arab invasion of 645.

After the fall of the Achaemenid Empire and the reign of Alexander the Great, who married in Susa, the city became part of the Seleucid empire. It was now called Seleucia on the Eulaeus. A palace in Greek style was erected, next to Darius' palace. The administrative center, however, was in the southern part of the city, where nearly all Greek and Parthian

inscriptions were discovered. In the Parthian age, the city minted coins.

During the Sasanian age, the city had a large Christian community. It was sacked by the Sasanian king Shapur II, who transferred the population to Iwan-e Karkheh, but Susa was sufficiently recovered in the early seventh century to fight against the Arabs, who nevertheless captured the city which remained important until the thirteenth century CE.

In the Bible, Susa is known primarily from the story of Esther in which Haman the Agagite planned to defeat the Jews of Persia. According to the story, Esther outwitted him by persuading her husband, King

with costumed parties and other celebrations, according to Ancient Origins.

Furthermore, Susa is also mentioned in Nehemiah and Daniel, both of whom lived in the city during the 6th century BC in the period known as the Babylonian captivity when several Jews were held captive following the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar. A tomb known as Shush-Daniel is believed to be that of Daniel himself. It is capped by an unusual white cone which some believe was formerly a stone 'Star of David'

wide variety of artifacts discovered in Susa includes carved cylinder seals, jewelry, clay balls, and clay tablets with cuneiform inscriptions recording business transactions, political history, and mathematical calculations.

paid a visit to the National Museum of Iran.

The guests along with the museum director Jebrael Nokandeh toured various sections of the museum including the ones dedicated to prehistoric, ancient, and Islamic eras that are set in a chronological order

"The great history of a great nation, very attractive, interesting examples and a great heritage are presented. A very high level of unforgettable display. I am very grateful and special thanks to Ms. Sepidnameh for her interesting and valuable explanations," Andreasyan wrote in the memorial book of the museum.

Furthermore, Nokandeh presented two books titled "Armenia and Iran, Memory of the Land" and "Guide to the National Museum of Iran" to the Armenian minister.

The National Museum of Iran is somewhat chock-full of priceless relics that represent various eras of the country's juicy history.

Massive and tiny statues, ceramics, potteries, stone figures, bas-relief carvings, metal objects, textile remains, rare books, and coins are amongst objects that build up the innumerable collections inside.

Historical documents in western Iran undergo restoration

Archaeological hills, historical villages in Golestan made national heritage

TEHRAN -A total of eight archaeological hills and two historical villages scattered across Golestan province have recently been added to Iran's national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, declared the inscriptions on Monday in separate letters to the governor-general of the northern province, CHTN reported.

The archaeological hills of Sargord, Kheirat, Khersi Koshi, and Nomal as well as Yolmeh Khandan village were among the properties added to the prestigious list.

Golestan is home to hundreds of historical and natural sites, with UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus - a one-millennium-old brick tower amongst its most famous.

Narratives say the tower has influenced various subsequent designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond. According to the UN body, the mudbrick tower bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

Gorgan, formerly Asterabad, is the capital of

Golestan province. The city came into existence since Achaemenian times, long suffered from inroads of the Turkmen tribes who occupied the plain north of the Qareh River and it was subjected to incessant Qajar-Turkmen tribal conflicts in the 19th century. It was renamed Gorgan in the 1930s after being devastated by an earthquake.

Moreover, the province is home to famed for its ruined defensive wall, the Great Wall of Gorgan, which was once one of the longest brick barriers of the ancient world.

TEHRAN - Some historical documents have been rehabilitated in Borujerd, western Lorestan province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

A historical manuscript and 15 documents, which are being kept in Borujerd Municipality Museum, were restored by experienced restorers and cultural heritage experts, Seyyed Amin Qasemi announced on Monday.

The project involved documenting, testing, cleaning, and staining the historical documents, the official added.

The manuscripts are planned to go on display for public viewing in the near future, he noted.

In 2020, the official announced that a top manuscript museum in Borujerd will be established. The museum will be considered as one of the first manuscript museums in the country and it is estimated to be highly welcomed by visitors, he noted.

One of the lesser-known travel destinations in Iran, Lorestan mainly acts as a gateway to the neighboring Khuzestan province which hosts UNESCO sites of Susa, Tchogha Zanbil, and Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System. Lorestan is also a region of raw beauty that an avid nature lover could spend weeks exploring.

Uzbekistan seeking to enhance technological cooperation with Iran

TEHRAN – Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade Sardor Umurzakov has announced readiness to develop technological cooperation with Iran.

Good opportunities exist for technological cooperation between the two countries and Uzbekistan is ready to interact with Iran in this field, appreciating Iran's achievements in the field of technology, innovation, and development of knowledge-based firms, he added.

Umurzakov made the remarks during a visit to the permanent exhibition of Iranian technological products on Monday, with the presence of Iranian Vice-President for Science and Technology, Sourena Sattari.

Referring to the establishment of the Uzbek Ministry of Innovative Development, he said that the nascent Ministry is willing to cooperate with Iran in the field of technology.

Stating that Iran's experience can lead to the development of Uzbekistan's science and technology parks, companies, and start-ups, he added that the two countries can even produce joint products.

Knowledge and research should be developed and scientific plans should be designed, but it is important that these plans are commercialized and



realized in the field of production, he added.

Emphasizing the need to create a roadmap to form extensive cooperation in the field of science and technology, he suggested that an Uzbek delegation consisting of businesses and technology activists visit Iran to review all areas of the cooperation and create the roadmap.

Umurzakov also invited Sattari to his country to attend Tashkent International Investment Forum.

Referring to the activity of 6,500 knowledge-based companies and more than 1,500 creative companies, Sattari said that there are more than 10,000 startups in the country, which are among the leading ones in various fields of technology and innovation

More than 98 percent of the

country's medicine is produced domestically by the efforts of knowledge-based companies. We now have the most powerful biotechnology companies in the region that export to other countries, he further explained.

Governments must prepare the ground for the interaction of entrepreneurs, professionals, and technologists on both sides, and in this direction, we are ready to lay the necessary groundwork, he also highlighted.

Science, technology advancement with knowledge-based ecosystem

Today, the country's knowledge-based ecosystem accounts for more than 3 percent of GDP. And the

figure is projected to reach 5 percent, however, the main goal is to step toward a 10 percent share in GDP, Sattari told Fars on February 13.

The share of knowledge-based companies in the country's economy has exceeded 9 quadrillion rials (about \$34 billion), and since 2019, it has experienced a growth of more than 450 percent, he stated.

The knowledge-based ecosystem is a newly-emerged ecosystem but has so far been able to solve many of the country's problems.

The Innovation and Prosperity Fund affiliated with the Vice Presidency of Science and Technology has earmarked a sum of 170 trillion rials (nearly \$650 million) to support knowledge-based companies over the past 4 years.

There are currently 6,263 knowledge-based companies operating in the country, offering advanced products and services in various fields of technology to domestic and foreign markets, and some of them have entered international markets, Siavash Maleki, deputy head of the Fund, stated

The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in, leading to import reduction.

Iran ready to transfer knowledge on natural resources to Kazakhstan

From page **1** > Natural resources, especially forests, are now managed by the Natural Resources Organization through conservation measures and without wood harvesting, he added.

Momyshev, for his part, expressed satisfaction to enhance cooperation between the two nations and highlighted that Iran can establish good relations with Kazakhstan by transferring experiences.

Referring to the drying up of Ural Lake as the country's biggest environmental challenge, he lamented that with the drying up of Ural Lake, more than 100,000 tons of salt dust is produced and dispersed into the air annually.

With its expert work and technologies in the field of lake rehabilitation, afforestation in the desert and non-desert lands, as well as technical services in the field of watershed management, Iran can help Kazakhstan to counter the issue, he stated.

In 2021 alone, about 61,000 hectares of the lands were planted in Kazakhstan, and currently, the country's forest area reached 6 million hectares, he noted.

There are many fields of cooperation between Iran and Kazakhstan in the field of agriculture and natural resources, and our experts have agreed to use the technical and specialized services of Iranians in this regard, he further concluded.

Deforestation worrisome

Ali Banagar, head of the forestry scientific association affiliated with the Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands, said in December 2021 that the trend of deforestation in Iran

OCIE

TEHRAN TIMES

FEBRUARY 22, 2022 Straight Truth

is worrisome.

"Apart from natural factors, villa and road construction, development projects, dam construction, wood smuggling, encroachment on forests and land grabbing, forest fires, coal mining, livelihood activities including agriculture, providing fuel and excessive livestock grazing, social and economic problems, and exploitation of natural resources, pests, environmental pollution and landfills, and many other factors have reduced the quantity and quality of forests.

Each of these variables has increased or decreased in recent years, but the result is alarming," he explained.

Between 2015 and 2020, approximately 12,000 hectares of forests across the country were wiped out annually, Reza Bayani an official with Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, said.

He went on to say that the country's forests are estimated at 14.3 million hectares, the country's northern forests have been estimated at 2,080,000 million hectares about 60 years ago, and today it is stretching to 2,004,000 hectares taking replanted areas into account.

Desert locust control area to rise 4-fold next year: forecast



TEHRAN - The desert locust is expected to penetrate into more than 80,000 hectares of land over the next [Iranian calendar] year (beginning on March 21), a 4-fold rise compared to the current year, deputy head of Plant Protection Organization, said.

In the current year, 19,300 hectares of lands were haunted by desert locusts, and control measures prevented the pest to enter farms and gardens, IRNA quoted Saeed Moein-Namini as saying on Monday.

Next year, the whole province of Hormozgan, parts of Bushehr and Sistan-Baluchestan provinces, will be at the forefront of the battle against locusts, he noted.

In the next stage, the measures will take place in the southern parts of Fars province, southern parts of Kerman, and the central parts of Sistan-Baluchestan.

According to Moein-Namini, if we see a lot of cyclones, the volume of locusts will increase and it will cover all the provinces of Khuzestan, Fars, and Bushehr.

In 2019, the locust infestation was recorded by the National Plant Protection Organization in nearly one million hectares of the southern provinces of the country.

FAO explains that desert locust infestations are normally present in southeast Iran during the spring. Local breeding coincides with seasonal rains that often occur from about February or March until April or May. In warmer years, rains that occur during the winter can lead to late winter and early spring breeding.

By June, vegetation is usually dry again and any adults that were produced during the spring move east towards the Indo-Pakistan summer breeding areas. Most of the spring breeding

occurs along a 450 km stretch of coastal plains on the Arabi-Desert locust an Sea from Jask (Hormozgan) and the Strait of Hormuz and is expected to the Gulf of Oman in the west penetrate into to Chabahar and Gwadar (Sistan-Baluchestan) near the Paover 80,000 kistan border in the east. hectares of

The most important area along the coast is the Vashnum Plains near Chabahar. If rains fall and temperatures are warm, breeding may also

occur in the interior, namely the Jaz Murian Basin from Kahnuj to Iranshahr, and in the Zaboli, Suran, and Saravan valleys that lead to Panjgur, Pakistan. Desert Locust adults rarely cross the mountains to the north of these areas.

Fighter jet crashes in northwest Iran, killing three



TEHRAN - An Air Force F-5 fighter jet crashed in the northwestern city of Tabriz on Monday

morning, killing its two pilots and a civilian sitting in a parked vehicle.

The plane hit the side of a school that was empty due to COVID-19 restrictions, ILNA quoted an official with the Red Crescent Society as saying.

Army spokesman Shahin Taqikhani lauded the two pilots for "sacrificing" themselves as they managed to avoid residential areas and land the plane in an open area next to a sports complex.

The cause of the accident is under further investigation.

Scientists hope for environmental benefit from drinks bottles

Work to increase the amount of recy- iot-Watt University have won funding cled material that can be used in plastic from Innovate UK to develop additives drinks bottles could have "significant and processing methods that could sig-



lands.

PET blends in a number of critical prop- of the PET mixtures.

"We'll be testing how the additive that the appropriate amount of additive ENVIROPET, said: "Our technology will improves the performance of recycled will be included during melt processing

help manufacturers comply with recycling targets and legislation and improve their bottle quality and environmental performance.

long-term environmental benefits", the academic leading the project has said.

While more than 580 billion polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles are produced each year, most of these contain little or no recycled materials.

That is because variations in the recycled plastic can affect the colour and clarity of the finished product - and can also lead to bottle failures which could see fizzy drinks go flat.

Now scientists at Edinburgh's Her-

nificantly increase the amount of recycled material that can be used.

It is hoped the work - being carried out along with Glasgow-based business ENVIROPET and scientists from the University of Strathclyde - will help companies meet UK and European requirements for all new PET bottles to contain a minimum of 30% recycled material from 2030.

Professor David Bucknall of Heriot-Watt University said: "We want to



solve the problems faced by using more recycled PET content in plastic bottles, which currently results in significantly poorer-quality bottles in terms of their mechanical properties and appearance.

erties that directly affect the PET bottle behaviour. We will measure gas permeability through the plastic, which has a direct impact on the product shelf-life.

"To have a long shelf-life the plastic must prevent oxygen permeating into the bottle and affecting its content, but also stop CO2 escaping so that carbonated drinks don't go 'flat'.

"Our colleagues at the University of Strathclyde will integrate artificial intelligence and deep learning to ensure

"This will help manufacturers to use this system so that the correct blend ratios and processing conditions are automatically maintained to produce consistently predictable products."

He added: "This project is exciting because we may be able to exceed 30% recycled material in any PET bottle, which would have significant long-term environmental benefits."

Douglas Craig, managing director of

"It could potentially save firms millions by reducing the amount of raw material needed for new bottles, as well as the energy resource required for their manufacture.

"All of the major PET bottle manufacturers have outlets in the UK, which means we have a gateway to a global market."

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Education, labor ministries ink MOU on out-of-school children

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare have signed a memorandum of understanding aiming to bring out-of-school children back to school.

The memorandum of understanding will pave the way for future steps, ISNA news agency quoted Education Minister Mohammad Bat'haei as saying on Sunday.

He made the remarks over the 8th session of council meeting for improving educational standards in underprivileged and underdeveloped areas at the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare."The meeting is aiming to live up to educational standards, however, the current conditions are unjustifiable, and we should move faster," he added.

تحصيل به مدارس وزارت آموزش و پرورش تفاهم نامه مشتر کی با وزارت رفاه برای باز گرداندن

تفاهم وزراء برای بازگرداندن کودکان بازمانده از

كودكان بازمانده از تحصيل امضا كردند. به گزارش روز یکشّنبه ایسنا، محمد بطحایی وزیر آموزش و پرورش گفت: امروز تفاهم نامهای امضا میشود که نقشه کار برای ادامه مسیر کاملا

مشخص شود.

بطحایی در هشتمین جلسه شورای هماهنگی بهبود وارتقای شاخصهای آموزشی و پرورشی مناطق محروم و کمتر توسعه یافته که در وزارت رفاه برگزار شد گفت: هدف اصلی این برنامه و شورای هماهنگی ارتقای شاخصها بود، هرچند این روند قابل قبول نیست و باید با سرعت بیشتری حركت كنيم.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON FEBRUARY 21

New cases	19,110
New deaths	236
Total cases	6,961,562
Total deaths	135,276
New hospitalized patients	2,514
Patients in critical condition	4,085
Total recovered patients	6,517,436
Diagnostic tests conducted	46,701,520
Doses of vaccine injected	139,778,863

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Live amongst people in such a manner that if you die they weep over you and if you are alive they crave for your company. Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:18 Evening: 18:11 Dawn: 5:19 (tomorrow)

Sunrise: 6:42 (tomorrow)

Sadi: works and life

Part 6

Indeed, though Sadi sometimes relates two or three consecutive stories with a similar theme or moral in the Golestan, there is no easily discernible progression or logical relationship between the successive tales within a chapter, leaving the overall impression of a mosaic of tiles juxtaposed unsystematically. A few stories even seem to clash with the theme of the chapter in which they are set.

While acknowledging the Golestan as one of the three most important books in Persian literature, next to the Masnavi and the Shahnameh, Ali Dashti has been its most vocal critic.

He argued that many of its stories lack significance and development, and that the verse summations are not always pertinent to the tale. Many have attempted to defend the Golestan from these charges.

Henri Massé had already proposed that the semi-disorder might be Sadi's deliberate effort to avoid the appearance of dogmatism or methodical rigor. Even though judging it unsuitable as a manual of ethics, Dashti does allow that the exactitude of its aphorisms exhibits the concision of mathematical formulas.

It also provides us with a unique document of the daily life, customs, and attitudes of the common people of Sadi's day, to which its success can in large part be attributed.

The Golestan assumes a good knowledge of Arabic, but while erudite, is rarely recondite. It addresses a general audience, though some few passages have caused confusion for copyists and provoked debate among commentators.

Sadi seems to have conversed in Arabic with facility, and throughout the work intersperses original Arabic verses, about the merit of which opinion has been divided.

not to heed "what the brawlers say," and urging critics not "to vex with odious subtlety/The cheerer of men's hearts."

Many have seen the Golestan as the continuation of the Maqamat tradition, though others have also linked it with the prose tradition of Sufi literature and the essays of Jahez.

Sadi adorns his prose with parallel rhymed phrasing (saj') and various types of paronomasia (jenas). While several works of rhyming prose might have provided inspiration for Sadi (e.g., the Monajat of Ansari, the Meccan suras of the Quran), the style of adorned prose (nasr-e mosajja' or masnu'), as distinct from plain prose (nasr-e morsal) on one end of the continuum and verse (nazm) on the other, was a defining characteristic of Hamidi's Persian adaptation (1156) of the Arabic Magamat of Hariri and Hamadani.

But whereas Hamidi's rather mechanical use of saj' and recherché Arabic lexemes and morphemes can result in obscure and purple passages, Sadi usually does not strain for rhymes or employ parallelism to excess; in fact, some stories do not rely upon it at all.

Very few stories in the Golestan take episodes in the Maqamat genre as explicit models, though at least one (Sadi's debate with a dervish about wealth and poverty), clearly does.

Like the Magamat, the stories of the Golestan reflect humorously on various social classes and types, are often set in distant locales, and rely upon rhymed parallel prose interspersed with verse.

Unlike the Magamat, the Golestan does not follow the framework of a single narrator recounting episodes about a recurring picaresque hero, and, with its generally much shorter stories, does not depend as much on characterization or plot development.

Watercolors portraying thirst of Sistan-**Baluchestan at Tehran gallery**

Province.

River.

its Gallery 1.

TEHRAN – A gallery in Tehran Iran in is showcasing a collection of watercolors depicting the thirst of the Sistan-Baluchestan region as part of water bankruptcy in Iran.

Composed of 55 works, the collection has been created over three years by Ali Piran, who deems the exhibition, entitled "Image of Nimruz", his tribute to his homeland.

Most of the paintings depict rural landscapes in a region called Molke Nimruz, which is currently facing a severe drought due to the new dams built by Afghanistan to use the Helmand River, which used to flow into



An art enthusiast visits the exhibition "Image of Nimruz" the Gallery 1 of the Iranian Photographers Center in Tehran on February 20, 2022. (Art Bureau/Reza Zakeri)

"By means of this showcase, I intend to be the voice of the oppressed people of Sistan urging Afghan officials to give their share of water [from the Helmand River]," he noted.

"By using the medium of watercolor, I can create more works at lower cost," Piran said, announcing his plans to take his exhibition to other Iranian cities and several other countries.

"Due to the region's harsh nature, there is no human element in the watercolors; houses are abandoned and which is hosting the exhibition at ruined. In fact, I wanted to show the visitors the sad feeling of

migration," he said.

Using the Helmand River is also aggravating a decadesold dispute between Iran and Afghanistan, which earlier accused Tehran of helping the Taliban insurgency. This dispute in still running as the Taliban are currently ruling over Afghanistan.

Piran's exhibition has been organized with contributions from the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization.

The exhibit will run until February 28 at the gallery located on the western end of Somayyeh Street.

Seven new movies to hit Iranian theaters during Noruz

Sistan-Baluchestan

Piran has said that no special

action has been taken by Iranian

officials to recover the country's

share of water from the Helmand

"In this collection, I have

portrayed the Sistan of yesterday

and today so as to perform my

duty towards my birthplace

and to tell that the region was

prosperous once, and now, it is

in bad condition due to a severe

water shortage," Piran said in a

press release published by the

Iranian Photographers Center,

Frome Page **1** • "Day Zero", an action film that brings Abdul-Malik Rigi, the founder and leader of the Jundallah terrorist group in southeastern Iran, back to life, will also be screened.

The film is producer and makeup artist Saeid Malekan's directorial debut, which premiered at the 38th Fajr Film Festival in 2020

The film won the special jury prize, the New Look award, which is presented to the best directorial debut feature film, and the Golden Simorgh for best film from the national point of view.

"La Minor", a drama about a young woman musician directed by Dariush Mehrjui, has



Javad Ezzati acts in a scene from "The Loser Man" directed by Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian.

Iranian theaters during the Noruz holiday

season in 2020, however, it was canceled due to the pandemic.

"The Loser Man", which had its premiere at the 40th Fajr Festival, will also be screened.

Directed Mohammad-Hossein by Mahdavian, the film is about Ahamd Khosravi, a detective who is engulfed by many problems in his private life, is assigned to investigate a mysterious case.

"The Meadow" written and directed by Kazem Daneshi is also among the films. It is about an inquisitor facing several challenges amid his transfer to a new office.

The lineup also contains the detective thriller "Forbidden" by Majid Mafi.

Rodrigo Hasbún's "Affections" appears in Persian



Front cover of the Persian translation of Rodrigo Hasbún's novel "Affections".

TEHRAN – Bolivian writer by Rodrigo Hasbún's 2015 novel "Affections" has been published in Persian.

Cheshmeh is the publisher of the book rendered into Persian from its original edition by Ramin Nasser-Nasir.

It is a haunting novel about an unusual family's breakdown, set in South America during the time of Che Guevara and inspired by the life of Third Reich cinematographer Hans Ertl.

Inspired by real events, "Affections" is the story of the eccentric, fascinating Ertl clan, headed by the egocentric and extraordinary Hans once the cameraman for the Nazi propagandist Leni Riefenstahl.

Shortly after the end of World War II, Hans and his family flee to Bolivia to start over. There, the ever-restless Hans decides to embark on an expedition in search of the fabled lost Inca city of Paititi, enlisting two of his daughters to join him on his outlandish quest into the depths of the Amazon, with disastrous consequences.

Set against the backdrop of both optimistic and violent 1950s and 1960s, "Affections" traces the Ertls's slow and inevitable of colossal, foolhardy projects and his subsequent spectacular failures; his daughter Monika, heir to his adventurous spirit, who joins the Bolivian Marxist guerrillas and becomes known as "Che Guevara's avenger"; and his wife and two younger sisters left to pick up the pieces in their wake.

In this short but powerful work, Hasbún weaves a masterfully layered tale of how a family's voyage of discovery ends up

also been selected to be screened.

Initially, plans were for the film to hit

member: Hans's undertakings

A few of the Persian phrases seem to follow the grammatical structures of Arabic, but Sadi assumes a Persian audience and provides Persian translations where the Arabic passages are essential to an understanding of the narrative.

Some European commentators found the bawdier passages in shocking contrast to the wisdom and moralistic intentions of the work, but generally excused this apparent vulgarity as a difference in occidental and oriental manners.

Critics have faulted the Golestan for its "Machiavellian" ethics, with commentators objecting in particular to the moral of the first story—"Better a white lie that is constructive than a truth unleashing what's destructive"and to the advice that kings should suppress enemies and strike preemptively at those who fear them.

Such criticism overlooks the fact that Sadi's comments on statecraft do not depart from the principles reflected in prior examples of the Mirror for Princes genre in Persian.

Others have defended him from the charge of practical or utilitarian ethics, pointing out similar views among European thinkers like Victor Hugo (one might also adduce Blake's line: "The truth that's told with bad intent/ Beats all the lies you can invent").

The appropriateness of Sadi's counsel to the political circumstances after the Mongol invasion and his strong sympathy for the vulnerable and oppressed have also been emphasized.

Already in 1847 we find Ralph Waldo Emerson, in his poem "Saadi," advising our poet

Instead, the Golestan and Bustan have been seen as the culmination of the Persian pandnama genre, as exemplified in the Qabusnama or Kimia-ye saadat.

In this view, Sadi replaced Ghazzali as the pre-eminent moral authority among Persian speakers by perfecting a trend in which, as with Sanai's Hadiqat al-haqiqa, the tradition of moral/wisdom literature merged with the mystical tradition.

This attention to content as the defining generic feature of the Golestan has the advantage of highlighting the unique nature of Sadi's achievement.

The Golestan combines simple and unadorned prose to create a new genre not clearly indebted to any prior form (Mahjub), and by joining the previously distinct prose and verse registers into a unified literary idiom Sadi created a "true literary form out of what had hitherto been only too often a rather shapeless mass of ill-assorted materials".

Despite this, surprisingly little has been written about the stylistics of the Golestan. Malek al-Sho'ara Bahar gives the best technical analysis of its rhetorical features. Zia Movahhed notes the minimalist plots sculpted out of language, word play, and psychological insight, and the way Sadi memorably and musically expresses mots justes, often without recourse to imagery, and concludes that the Golestan is characteristically a "poetry of ideas."

> (Source: Encyclopedia Iranica) (To be continued)

erratic trajectories of each family held it together.

breakdown through the various eroding the affections that once

The fake general and suppress a resistance

By Fatemeh Nakhlizadeh

Indro Montanelli was an Italian journalist and historian awarded the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic in 1995. Montanelli, who repeatedly got arrested by German forces for his anti-fascist activities, met the main character of his story in prison. In the book introduction, He wrote about his inspiration for writing this book and said: "I consider it my duty, as an eyewitness, to tell the story of how the young Bertone turned into Forte Bracho Della Rure".

The book "General Della Rovere" is a combination of memories and stories, and one of its great features is its focus to grow the main idea. Despite its small size, it has a strong characterization with good details; also, the evolution of the main character is slow and believable, and there is no sign of rush in the story.

According to history, from 1939 to 1945, Mussolini's fascist phalanxes had allied with the Nazi army to suppress Italian liberalists by using every possible way, and the story is about one of these ways.

When Bertone was young, he was a gambler who was chosen to be sent to prison to spy on the detainees as a fake general. It might be a



good idea to take a brief look at the story.

In the very first chapters, when he was arrested by the national security forces, he tried to justify his betrayals and wrongdoings and said: "tell me how could I bring news about your sons, brothers, and husbands who were beaten so much that they vomited blood? Would you rather hear this kind of news? No, you would not. I did a lot of favor for you, and now that your husband has been shot, it's like I was the one who shot him! Ladies and gentlemen, tell me! tell me what a deceiver I

am to betray you!". You can somehow see his character in these lines that help us not to be surprised by other events in the future.

Although so many things happened to the young Bertone, the story begins when he decides to be sent to prison as a fake general in the armed forces of the Italian Socialist Republic, and what changes him from a gambler into a soldier of the Italian resistance movement.

If we want to describe this book in only a sentence, we may quote that German commander: "We Germans are judging this country with its real generals, but Italy should be judged with a fake but brave general".

In 1959, a movie was made from this book directed by a well-known Italian director, Roberto Rossellini who won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival for this movie. If you watched it, you would realize how closely the story of the book and the movie are linked.

In movies when a scene ends, another one starts immediately, similarly when a paragraph ends and a new one begins in this book, the time and location shift too. In fact, the books' chapters are not well-ordered, and if the reader doesn't focus, he will get confused and need to read a paragraph several times.