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Report

Iran keeps up diplomatic efforts to secure safe departure of its citizens from Ukraine

TEHRAN — As the war on Ukraine raged for the second day, the Iranian government continues efforts to ensure that its citizens in Ukraine are safe

"With the start of the crisis and the ratcheting up of the tensions in the region, the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Kiev have taken extensive and various measures in this regard," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Friday.

Given the "precise predictions" made at the foreign ministry, and since pertinent organizations and institutions had been notified of the developments that the world is witnessing today as the most likely scenario, a crisis headquarters was swiftly established at the ministry, and efforts were made so as to establish the highest coordination between the staff in line with the objective of better managing the situation and, if necessary, facilitate the evacuation of Iranian nationals, including university students, he stated.

The spokesman added, "Dr. Amir Abdollahian, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, held conversations with the foreign ministers of both countries (Ukraine and Russia). He also made several telephone calls to our country's ambassador to Kiev and emphasized the relevant instructions as to the offering of urgent and special services to the Iranians expatriates; and most recently, he held a telephone conversation with Hungary's foreign minister to facilitate the exit of Iranians through the border of that country." > Page 2

Interview 🏼 🗗

Jalal Hosseini, the art of defending

By Morteza Mohases

TEHRAN - A central defender is one of the most crucial and strategically deciding positions; no team are completed without the quality of a tactical leader, but what are the factors that make an ideal defender?

In a telephone interview with Jalal Hosseini, the experienced Persepolis player mentioned some essential and insightful football lessons to remember

*I have never had any coaching or training in how to survive the last 15 minutes of a game or how we could force a draw or a victorv in the dying minutes of a game.

Iran's Position on **Ukraine War Explained**



Iraqi central bank governor visits Iran, seeks closer ties

TEHRAN – Governor of the Central Bank of Iraq Mustafa Ghaleb visited Iran along with a high-ranking delegation, aiming to develop banking and monetary relations between the two countries

During his visit, he met with Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Ali Saleh-Abadi in Tehran on Thursday to explore avenues of expanding monetary relations between the two countries, the CBI portal reported.

In the meeting, Ghaleb referred to the close relations between the two countries in the fields of banking and finance and called for removing obstacles in the way of expanding mutual cooperation.

During his visit to Tehran, Ghaleb was accompanied by the managing director of the Trade Bank of Iraq and the country's advisor to the prime minister.

The official also met with Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber, during which he expressed gratitude for the serious determination of the Iranian government for developing relations with its neighbors, stress-



ing the need for signing memorandums of understanding for cooperation between the two countries' central banks.

Mokhber for his part said that the central banks of Iran and Iraq should play a key role in facilitating the financial affairs between the two countries.

He underlined developing relations between Iran and Irag, especially in the financial and banking sectors, noting that Tehran welcomes the comprehensive expansion of relations with Baghdad. ► Page 4

Elamite inscription attributed to Xerxes the **Great found in Persepolis**

Iranian president explores Ukraine crisis

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Russia-West tension can affect any possible agreement with Iran: professor

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – A professor of government and international affairs at George Mason University believes that tension between Russia and the West can increase or decrease the importance of agreement with Iran.

"The current crisis in relations between Russia and the West both increases and decreases the attractiveness of an agreement," Edward Rhodes tells the Tehran Times

"Obviously, reductions in the supply of oil and natural gas from Russia to Europe make bringing Iran fully back into world energy markets attractive," Rhodes notes.

Russia's military operation in Ukraine has led to an unprecedented escalation between Moscow and European capitals as well as Washington. Concerns about energy supply in the world have been rising.

As Germany on Tuesday halted the Nord Stream 2 Baltic Sea gas pipeline project, Western powers are thinking of alternatives that can replace Russia in supplying energy.

The professor is of the opinion that Iran can be an attractive alternative if the trust between Tehran and the West is restored.

*Being the captain of a team is something special; captaining the national side is an even more incredible privilege. You are representing your country.

*On losing possession, the space is the decisive factor; reading the game is critical to block the opposition's offensive movements.

*When you start playing football as a kid, you do what you feel like, gradually you learn to play different patterns of play in training and about the basic building blocks of football. The right environment and coaching are also crucial to developing into a professional player.

He is a former central defender and captain of the Iran national team, who plays primarily as a central defender or Defensive Midfielder for Persepolis F.C these days at the age of 40. Hosseini is widely regarded as one of the greatest ever defenders in Iran. He held the record of 115 caps for the National Team.

Naturally right-footed player, but due to Hosseini's Tactical awareness and athleticism, intelligent positioning, and aggressive playing style, he was playing anywhere in the backline.

Hosseini was born in Bander -e Anzali, Gilan Province, on Feb. 3, 1982. After playing in his hometown, he moved to play 117 matches for Saipa before signing for mighty Sepahan F.C.

He played for Qatari side Al Ahli and Naft Tehran for the next two years. Finally, in the Spring of 2016, after weeks of negotiation, Hosseini was announced that he was a Persepolis player. ► Page 3

Mir Ab, vital for equitable distribution of water

Mir Ab, literally meaning the head of water or the manager-in-chief of water distribution, is a person who is traditionally in charge of calculating the time for distribution of underground water resources in a just way among farmers.

The picture shows Mohammad Ebrahimi, 73, a Mir Ab in Zar Abad village northwestern Qazvin province, October 13, 2021.

This water distribution system determines everyone's share based on the geographical features of the land and its material value.

TEHRAN - Experts of the UNESCO-registered Persepolis have discovered a fragment of Elamite inscription which is attributed to Xerxes the Great.

They discovered the object during a classification and documentation project of the inscribed objects and fragmentary inscriptions at the reserves of the Persepolis Museum.

"A large part of the text of this inscription is, in fact, a copy of the inscription of [the Achaemenid king] Darius I on both sides of the entrance to the tomb in Naghsh-e Rostam, and parts of this inscription were discovered during an excavation led by [German archaeologist and Iranologist Ernst Emil] Herzfeld in an area called Fartedaran," IRNA quoted archaeologist Soheil Delshad as saying on Thursday.

"The Persian version of the inscription was one of the first Achaemenid inscriptions that were studied and published by Iranian scholars, and now, after about 55 years, a piece containing the Elamite version of the inscription is also being published by Iranian scholars for the first time," Delshad explained. ► Page 6

Following is the text of the interview:

All parties to the JCPOA are talking about an imminent agreement in Vienna. Are you optimistic despite mutual rhetoric between Iran and the U.S.?

First, let me note that from the comments being made by officials here in Washington, it is not at all clear that an agreement in Vienna is imminent. ► Page 5

Iran-Japan dialogue held on "Environment in Islam and Shinto"

TEHRAN – The second session of interfaith dialogue between Iran and Japan was held in Tokyo on Tuesday, with the theme of "Environment in Islam and Shinto".

Held by the Iranian Cultural Center in Japan in cooperation with the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO), the event was attended by a number of cultural and religious officials from the two countries who delivered speeches in person or via video conference.

Ali Mashhadi, an associate professor of Qom University's Faculty of Law, said in his speech that the most important solution to preserve and save the environment is to refer to religious teachings and environmental theology. ► Page 7

Iran's deputy nuclear chief visits Vienna for technical talks with IAEA

TEHRAN - Behrozu Kamalvandi, the deputy chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (EAOI), has visited Vienna for technical talks between Iran and the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency.

The visit comes as the IAEA Board of Governors plan to hold a regular session soon.

Kamalvandi had recently visited Vienna for talks with IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi.

The visit by Kamalvandi comes as Iran and its negotiating partners have reached a "crucial moment", according to the European Union's Enrique Mora, to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

While in Vienna, Kamalvandi held talks with Russian Ambassador to the IAEA, Mikhail Ulyanov, who also represents his country at the Vienna talks between Iran and the remaining members to the JCPOA (Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany) and the United States.

"The chief Iranian negotiator at the #Vienna-Talks on #JCPOA Dr. Ali Bagheri Kani is in Tehran now. But his colleagues stay in Vienna. Met today with Deputy Head of the Atomic Energy Organisation of #Iran Mr.B. Kamalvandi and Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. R. Najafi," Ulyanov tweeted on Friday.

POLITICS

FEBRUARY 26, 2022 Straight Truth **TEHRAN TIMES**

Iranian president explores Ukraine crisis with Putin

TEHRAN — Iran's President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi called his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Thursday to discuss the latest developments on the ground in Ukraine as well the Vienna talks.

Raisi stated that the expansion of the NATO to the east creates tensions, stressing, "The expansion of the NATO is a serious threat to the stability and security of independent countries in different regions.'

The president then expressed hope that what is happening in Ukraine ends up to the benefit the nations and the region.

Referring to the nuclear talks, Raisi stated that Iran is seeking a sustainable agreement, not a shaky one.

He added, "Providing credible guarantees, ending political claims (against Iran) and the verifiable lifting of sanctions are among the necessities of reaching a lasting agreement."

In the conversation, Putin described the current situation in Ukraine as a "legitimate response to decades of breaches of security treaties and the West's efforts to undermine his country's security."

Referring to Iran's active cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Russian president stressed the importance of continuing consultations between the two sides on nuclear talks.

Meanwhile, the Iranian government spokesman on Friday said diplomacy and dialogue are the solutions to end the war on Ukraine.

"Security concerns about the growing and provocative trend of NATO eastward expansion are understandable to all independent countries opposed to U.S. domination. At the same time, adherence to international and humanitarian law and reliance on dialogue and diplomacy are essential to ending conflict," Ali Bahadori Jahromi tweeted.

War on Ukraine: how did it start?

On Thursday NATO condemned Russia's full-fledged military invasion of Ukraine, calling it a "brutal act of war" and G7 leaders calling it a "severe danger to international order."

Brussels and Washington have sought to put new sanctions on Moscow, this time aimed at banking and business. "Putin picked this war," U.S. President Joe Biden said, warning that Russia will pay the price.



Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Civilians have been seen fleeing major cities.

As the second day of action began, Moscow appeared to have Kyiv squarely in its sights, invading from the east, north, and south.

Clashes between the two sides have been reported, with Ukrainian soldiers blowing up a bridge in an attempt to delay Russia's approach. Western intelligence authorities have previously warned that Russia was assembling an "overwhelming force" to seize control of the city.

Citizens in the northern Obolon area were warned to stay at home on Friday to prevent "active military activities," according to Reuters. Obolon is the same location where tanks were spotted earlier in the day.

Russian President Vladimir Putin warned foreign countries that any attempt to intervene would result in "consequences you have never seen in history.'

Putin ordered the invasion, with Russian forces invading Ukraine by land, air, and sea.

World leaders condemned the initiation of a Russian attack that could result in large casualties and appears to be aimed at destabilizing Ukraine.

The Ukrainian State Emergency Service reported the arrival of Russian forces in the village of Pavlovka, around 200 kilometers east of Kyiv.

Meanwhile, heavy battle between Ukrainian and Russian troops continues in the Kharkiv region, near the Russian border, according to Oleh Sinegubov, chairman of the regional state administration.

Mayor Oleksandr Tretiak confirmed a ballistic rocket strike on Rivne's airport, although no casualties were reported. Rivne can be found in western Ukraine.

Iran keeps up diplomatic efforts to secure safe departure of its citizens from Ukraine

From page **1** Khatibzadeh stressed that among the other measures taken by the ministry are: "Following up on the condition of the Iranian expatriates in Ukraine; updating the personal and contact information and addresses of the Iranian expatriates and creating a related data bank; establishing a 24/7 hotline for the Iranian expatriates to be able to contact the Department of Consular Affairs, and also similar measures taken by the Iranian embassy in Kiev, as well as preparing and publication of the embassy announcements regarding the need for vigilance and preparedness for emergency situations."

"Furthermore, our country's embassy in Kiev has been in constant contact with all the Iranian nationals, especially the university students, and will be replying to the questions and requests of the dear Iranians both via telephone calls and in person," he said in his statement.

The diplomat added, "Our other measures include: Receiving the views and requests of the Iranians via phone calls and the embassy's web pages; offering urgent consular services to some applicants round the clock; addressing the questions and concerns of the Iranians and the university students on different social media platforms; and holding the meetings of our country's ambassador with different groups of Iranian university

students.

Khatibzadeh stressed that addressing the concerns of the families of the Iranian expatriates, including those of the university students, has been another duty that has been taken care of.

"Coordinating and making preparations with the Islamic Republic of Iran Airline to evacuate our country's nationals has been another important measure taken at the beginning of the crisis, and, in case flights are possible and the Ukrainian government permits flights, and if the safety of the flight is ensured, it will take place swiftly," he explained.

The diplomat went on to say that issuing relevant instructions to Iran's embassies countries neighboring in Ukraine where compatriots can be perceived moving to has been another measure.

"Our embassies in Poland, Hungary, Belarus, Moldova, and Romania are at full alert and have been given certain discretion to manage the passage of Iranians," he remarked.

Concluding his remarks, Khatibzadeh stressed that Iran's embassy in Kiev is active at full capacity and its most important mission is to address the problems of the Iranians, and this key mission will continue until it is ensured that the issues of each and every compatriot has been dealt with.

"It is a given that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will ambassador in Ukraine met



be in constant contact with the sides to the matter, and the dear Iranian expatriates will be notified of new decisions as the situation develops," he asserted.'

Foreign ministry official meets Ukraine envoy in Tehran

During a meeting with the Ukrainian ambassador to Tehran on Friday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry director for the Eurasia Office Alireza Haghighian stressed the need to maintain the security of Iranian citizens and students residing in Ukraine, diplomats and the Iranian embassy in Kiev.

"We are concerned for the safety and health of all Iranian citizens," Haghighian told the Ukrainian ambassador, adding that the Ukrainian government should take all necessary measures in this regard, including providing a safe departure for Iranian citizens.

Given the closure of the Ukrainian airspace, Haghighian demanded that the Ukrainian government make an effort for the Iranian citizens to move safely to Ukraine's borders with its neighbors, including Poland.

Before the start of the Ukraine war, Iranian foreign ministry had set up a 24/7 hotline for the Iranian residents in Ukraine and their families in Iran to maintain a close contact with their loved ones.

Diplomatic efforts to secure a safe exodus from Ukraine for the Iranians is constantly being pursued, as the Iranian

with the Iranian students to calm them and brief them about the latest updates regarding their departure.

Manouchehr Moradi visited the residence of some Iranian students in Kiev and spoke closely with them and learned about their problems.

The visit came after some students posted footages and videos on social media platform voicing concerns about their safety in Ukraine.

Also, the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Ukraine announced that it continues to provide services to compatriots and help their situation and is ready to respond to and address their requests.

Iranian embassy in Romania issues statement

Following the escalation of the situation in Ukraine, Iran's embassy in Ukraine issued a statement, informing Iranian residents in Ukraine on how to contact the embassy in Romania for departure from Ukraine.

"Statement No. 1 of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Romania: Iranian citizens residing in Ukraine are informed: Iranians can visit the Romanian diplomatic mission in Chisinau, the consular offices in Cernauti, Cahul and Balti or obtain a Romanian visa directly at the Ukrainian-Romanian border crossing Siret-Sighetu Marmatiei, Halmeu. If you need any additional information or support, please call 0040761121802 or WhatsApp 00989122442208," the statement read

Iranian FM seeks Hungary's cooperation to get Iranians out of Ukraine

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister for a resort to political and diplomatic Poland to safely return home. Hossein Amir Abdollahian has exchanged views with his Hungarian counterpart, Péter Szijjártó, about the crisis in Ukraine and cooperation on facilitating the return of Iranian nationals living in Ukraine.

In a phone conversation on Saturday, Amir Abdollahian voiced concern over the measures previously taken by NATO, which led to the crisis in Eastern Europe, expressing support for political solutions

solutions instead.

He expressed hope that the armed conflict would be brought to an end as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Amir Abdollahian asked Hungary to provide humanitarian assistance in facilitating the process of transferring Iranian citizens from Ukraine to their homeland through Hungarian soil.

The Hungarian foreign minister responded by saying that his country would spare no effort to secure the transfer of Iranian nationals through the Hungarian soil.

The Hungarian government, he added, will issue the necessary orders to let in Iranians living in Ukraine without visa requirements and provide them with urgent assistance for their safe exit.

On a single day of combat, skirmishes and injuries were reported around the country, including near the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv. According to Ukrainian officials, Russia has taken control of the

Lviv. an important western Ukrainian city on the Polish border, is hearing air raid sirens. Lviv was previously not thought to be a target of the Russian invasion.

to the crisis in Ukraine.

In turn, the Hungarian foreign minister voiced deep fears over the launch of a

Amir Abdollahian said Iranian citizens, including students, families of diplomats military operation in Ukraine, calling seek to cross into borders of Hungary and bringing back its nationals home.

'Solution to Ukraine war is dialogue'

For his part, Amir Abdollahian thanked the Hungarian government for providing and other Iranian residents of Ukraine, necessary facilities and helping Iran to

Iran has been subject to toughest IAEA inspection but receive no technical help: nuclear chief

TEHRAN – Though Iran has been subject to the "toughest inspections" by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), it has not received any technical support by the UN body, the chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (EAOI) said late on Thursday.

Mohammad Eslami said it if for 47 years that Iran has signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and it is natural for it to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

"However, they accuse us of seeking to build atomic bomb; it is for 47 years that we are member. We have signed the Agency's treaty on non-proliferation of atomic arms. Also, we are obeying rules and are under the toughest inspection of the Agency," Eslami told a ceremony in Isfahan.

The NPT aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to foster the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of disarmament. The treaty

establishes a safeguards system under the responsibility of the IAEA, which also plays a central role under the treaty in areas of technology transfer for peaceful purposes.

Eslami said the IAEA is tasked to share nuclear technology with all countries that have signed the NPT but not only they "deprived" Iran of this help they even created "obstacles" in this regard.

The nuclear energy chief went on to say that Iran has set goals to increase its capacity in producing nuclear electricity, which is of highest quality. It is also "endless and pollution-free," he remarked.

To see how the IAEA behaves double standards, IAEA head Rafael Grossi told a conference in Saudi Arabia on February 16 that his Agency is working with Egypt and Saudi Arabia to help them to develop nuclear power.

Saudi Arabia is reportedly already working on nuclear technologies with China.

TEHRAN Mohammad Jamshidi, an official at the president's office in charge of political affairs, said on Friday that the Russians' security concerns about NATO military expansion are well understood.

However, he added that the solution to the problem is to have peaceful dialogue.

"What is happening in Ukraine is a geopolitical change that is happening in the country," Jamshidi said in reference to the Russian attack on Ukraine on Thursday morning after recognizing two separatistheld enclaves in Ukraine as independent breakaway republics on Monday.

Jamshidi further explained that after World War II and the Cold War, NATO tried to confront the Soviet Union with the aim of creating military unity among Western countries centered on the United States, and after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw pact, NATO continued

concerns of the Russian president.

added, "While NATO He claims that it seeks the security of Western countries, it has expanded in different regions over the past 30 years and contrary to its security commitments to Russia, it has developed 5 stages of military expansion in Europe and even in the Persian Gulf."

NATO is looking for new partnerships, and today there is talk of a NATO presence in East Asia to contain China, he said.

"We have emphasized that the solution to this concern is through diplomacy and dialogue, and respecting the lives and property of civilians in the interests of the people," he said.

Referring to Thursday's phone conversation between the presidents of Iran and Russia, Jamshidi said that the focus of Ebrahim Raisi and Vladimir Putin's talks on Thursday were nuclear issues and following the implementation of bilateral

its life, which is one of the main agreements during Raisi's visit to Moscow last month.

> He added, "There are various talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and different countries, such as the talks with the president of France that took place in recent days, and the talks with Putin were planned about 5 days ago, and those who are familiar with the diplomatic issues know that coordinating diplomatic talks, especially between presidents, is timeconsuming and does not mean that the call will be made on the same day or at the same time."

> The official at the presidential office described one of the issues raised by Putin in the conversation with Raisi as "developments in Eastern Europe and Ukraine" and explained the official position of the Islamic Republic in line with "maximum interaction" with all countries around the world.

Jamshidi added "The government has been able to clearly show in the past 6 months that it has an interactive policy with all countries and the president has made four trips to foreign countries during this period, signing several agreements to strengthen the country's economic power and establish infrastructure ties between Iran and different countries."

Emphasizing that Iran seeks maximum interaction with all countries of the world, he also noted that Iran is fully aware of the security and strategic developments that are taking place in the region and other parts of the world.

Pointing to the issues related to the South Caucasus which reached a critical stage, Jamshidi said they were managed with the active role of Iran and some other countries, and that the developments in Afghanistan have been a very important geopolitical development since the Raisi government took office.

Iran's position on Ukraine war explained

TEHRAN - The war in Ukraine has created a new delicate moment in international relations, putting to test alliances and relations between countries around the world including in the West Asian region.

Reactions to the Ukraine war in the region are telling. Several regional countries that are seen as U.S. allies have adopted positions that are indicative of fractures between the U.S. and its allies in the region. Israel, the most important ally of the U.S. in the region, has grudgingly condemned the war in Ukraine. Turkey taking a jab at the West even as it condemns the war

The fractures are more evident in the Persian Gulf region. Arab allies of the U.S. in this vital region have adopted almost a neutral stance, calling for deescalation without openly criticizing Russia. The Arab allies, who happen to be the oil-exporting countries expected to cushion the blow of soaring oil prices through pumping more oil, are reluctant to rush to Washington's rescue. In doing so, they are sending messages of complaints about past U.S. negligence toward their needs.

The only country in the region that is adopting a balanced position is Iran which has called for dialogue and diplomacy to settle differences. At the same time, Iran clearly highlighted the risks associated with the expansion of NATO toward the East.

This position was pronounced by

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir

Abdollahian and British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss

have discussed some issues of mutual interest

During the talks, the top Iranian diplomat

weighed in on the Vienna negotiations aimed

at lifting Iran sanctions and touched upon

the talks he held, in Munich, with his German

counterpart as well as Joseph Borrell, the High

Representative of the European Union for

deal," said Amir Abdollahian, according to the

"In the meantime, to expedite efforts to reach

an agreement requires serious will on the part of

the Western sides to adopt brave and pragmatic

political decisions to guarantee and ensure Iran's

interests, especially with regards to the objective

removal of sanctions, in order to work out a lasting

He expressed hope the European countries

Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Iranian foreign ministry.

over the phone, IRNA reported on Thursday.

TT TIT

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in a phone conversation with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. Raisi stated that the expansion of NATO to the East creates tensions, according to a readout released by the Iranian presidency.

"The expansion of NATO is a serious threat to the stability and security of independent countries in different regions," the Iranian president told President Putin.

But the expansion of NATO does not forgo the need for diplomacy. Thus, Iran underlined the need for diplomacy and dialogue. Ali Bahadori Jahromi, the spokesman for the Iranian government, said concerns about the expansion of NATO are understandable but diplomacy is necessary.

"Security concerns about the growing and provocative trend of NATO expansion to the East are understandable for

all independent countries and those opposing U.S. dominance. At the same time, compliance with international law and humanitarian law and reliance on dialogue and diplomacy are necessary to stop conflicts," the spokesman said on Twitter.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian further clarified Iran's position on Twitter. "The #Ukraine crisis is rooted in NATO's provocations. We don't believe that resorting to war is a solution. Imperative to establish ceasefire & to find a political and democratic resolution," Amir Abdollahian tweeted

Earlier, the Iranian foreign ministry spokesman, Saeed Khatibzadeh, expressed regret over the start of military actions and the escalation of hostilities in Ukraine. He said Tehran was following the developments in the country with concern.

Iran's position toward the crisis in Ukraine is two-pronged: Understanding Russia's concerns over NATO expansion and favoring diplomacy over war.

This was clear in the statement Khatibzadeh issued on the situation in Ukraine. He said, "Unfortunately provocative moves by NATO spearheaded by the U.S. have led to a situation which has pushed the Eurasian region on the cusp of a big crisis."

He underlined that Iran invites the two sides to stop the hostilities and establish a ceasefire for immediate talks in order to resolve the crisis through political means.

Khatibzadeh also urged Russia and Ukraine to observe international law and international humanitarian laws

right from the start. As the crisis unfolded in Ukraine, Khatibzadeh said Iran invites all sides to exercise restraint and believes any action that could escalate tensions should be avoided. Khatibzadeh also called on all sides to work to resolve disagreements through talks and within a peaceful framework

attention to concerns about NATO expansion. "Unfortunately, interference and provocative measures by NATO and led by the U.S. have made things more

Jalal Hosseini, the art of defending

GPI

Frome Page **1** He is an imposing defender and skillful header of the ball. His decisive goals for Persepolis and the national team were remarkable achievements.

At the end of our conversation, he pointed out some interesting football facts:

- A good footballer, particularly a defender, thinks ahead and continually asks himself, What if?

- The power of communication along the backline (verbal and non-verbal) is indispensable.

- The most essential characteristics that a Center Back should possess are awareness and positioning with composure and confidence.

- Finally, for the central defenders, the ball ability, staying calm and collected when in possession of the ball, has become a prerequisite for modern defenders at top tier international football.

Rezaei misses Korea. Lebanon matches in 2022 World Cup qualification

TEHRAN - Iran football forward Kaveh Rezaei will be absent against Korea Republic and Lebanon in the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification.

The 30-year-old forward, who plays for Belgian First Division A club OH Leuven, has sustained a calf injury and must rest for several weeks.

Iran will play Korea Republic on March 24 and host Lebanon five days later in Tehran.

Iran and South Korea have already secured automatic qualification for the World Cup from Group A of Asia's preliminaries, with the United Arab Emirates, Irag and Lebanon battling for third place and one of the playoff spots.

Taremi helps Porto to qualify for Europa League Round of 16

TEHRAN - Iranian international striker Mehdi Taremi delivered a fantastic performance to help Porto advance to the Europa League Round of 16.

Taremi - Porto's top scorer this season - was constant menace for a Lazio back line that

Persepolis eye Shahab Zahedi: report

JRTS-

TEHRAN - Iranian football club Persepolis have reportedly shown an interest in signing Shahab Zahedi. Zahedi currently plays at Ukrainian Premier League

club Zorya Luhansk. The Ukrainian Premier League has been suspended

due to war.

The 26-year-old forward, who was a member of Persepolis from 2014 to 2017, has been linked with a move to the club.

Zahedi is allowed to leave the country after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky declared martial law.

Iran lose to Kazakhstan at FIBA World Cup 2023 qualifier

TEHRAN - Iran lost to Kazakhstan 73-69 at the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 Asian Qualifiers on Thursday.

In the match held in Tehran's Azadi Hall, Mostafa Hashemi's men lost their place in top of Group D to Kazakhstan.

Iran are second with points, one point behind Kazakhstan.Mohammad Jamshidi of Iran top scored with 32 points with Kazakhstan's Nikolay Bazhin scored 23 points.

Iran are scheduled to meet Syria three days later in Tehran, while Kazakhstan face Bahrain in Manama.

The top three teams from all groups will be grouped in two groups of six teams, where each team will face teams from another group.

Results from the first round will be carried. The top three teams from each group, along with hosts Japan and the Philippines will qualify for the World Cup, However, if hosts Indonesia manage to qualify by virtue of making through the quarterfinals of the 2021 FIBA Asia Cup, only the top two teams from each group. along with the best third-place team will qualify.

Rakhshani shortlisted for 2022 International Women's Day awards

TEHRAN - The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has released the shortlist for the 2022

relations as well as talks to resolve the issue of "We made good progress during these London's overdue debts to Tehran, and elaborated talks, and the negotiating teams in Vienna on her country's viewpoints on that issue as well are trying their utmost to reach a good as on the Vienna negotiations.

> She said Tehran-London growing ties will serve the interests of both sides.

Iran, UK top diplomats discuss bilateral issues, Vienna talks

present in the talks will, through a realistic look,

The two sides also emphasized that the

settlement of Britain's overdue debts to

Iran is among the key issues of mutual

concern, adding it is essential that the issue

be resolved through proper channels and

During the phone conversation, the UK foreign

secretary reviewed the latest status of bilateral

play a constructive role in clinching a deal.

London's arrears to Tehran be settled.

She noted good achievements have been secured in the Vienna talks so far. However, she said the negotiations should come to an end with a result desired by all sides.

She expressed hope that bilateral issues, namely consular affairs related to prisoners as well the settlement of Britain's overdue debts to Iran, will be resolved in the near future through constant cooperation between the two sides and based on fundamental principles.

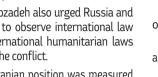
The phone conversation between the top diplomats of Iran and the UK came at a time when the talks in Vienna are at a critical juncture after months of painstaking negotiations.

The lead negotiators in Vienna have said in unison that the talks have reached a critical point. For instance, Enrique Mora, deputy head of the EU foreign apparatus who coordinates the Vienna talks, has said that the talks are nearing their end but key issues remain unresolved.

"#JCPOA #ViennaTalks are at a crucial moment. We are nearing the end after ten months of negotiations. The result is still uncertain. Key issues need to be fixed. But all delegations are fully engaged. Intense work in Coburg," Mora said on Twitter.

It's not clear which issues have not been hammered out yet. But press reports suggest that there are currently disagreements over a number of issues that need political decisions from the West, particularly the United States.

Iran ambassador to Ukraine visits residence of Iranian students in Kyiv



during the conflict. The Iranian position was measured

But the spokesman also drew complicated in this region," he said.





to Ukraine paid a visit on Thursday night to the shelter Iranian students in the country are taking refuge in as arrangements are being done to transfer them back home as Russia attacked Ukraine on Thursday morning.

agreement," said Amir Abdollahian.

Manouchehr Moradi visited the residence of some Iranian students living in Kyiv and spoke closely with them and learned about their problems.

The visit came after some students posted footages and videos on social media platform voicing concerns about their safety in Ukraine.

Also, the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Ukraine announced that it continues to provide services to compatriots and help their situation and is ready to respond to and address their requests.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said Thursday that he was following the developments in Ukraine with "deep concern".

Khatibzadeh has expressed regret over the start of military actions and the escalation of hostilities in Ukraine, saying Tehran is following the developments in the country with concern.

He said, "Unfortunately provocative moves by NATO spearheaded by the U.S. have led to a situation which has

cusp of a big crisis."

He underlined that the Islamic Republic of Iran invites Russia and Ukraine to stop the hostilities and establish a ceasefire for immediate talks in order to resolve the crisis through political means.

Khatibzadeh also urged Russia and Ukraine to observe international law and international humanitarian laws during the conflict.

Khatibzadeh also referred to the situation of Iranians living in Ukraine, saying, "The most important current mission of Iran's Foreign Ministry is to fully and urgently address the situation of Iranians living in Ukraine, which is underway according to predictions made using all capacities."

He added that the Iranian embassy in Ukraine is fully active and serves students and other Iranians 24 hours a day, in accordance with the previous instructions.

Amid developments in Ukraine, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian held a phone call with the Islamic Republic's ambassador to Kyiv, and while getting the latest briefings on the situation on the ground in Ukraine, was informed on the latest situation of Iranian nationals residing in the country as well as Iran's diplomats and their families there.

During the phone call, the foreign

on Iranian residents, especially Iranian students studying in Ukraine, and reiterated the need for the embassy to offer 24-hour services to fellow Iranians.

Amir Abdollahian also directed the ambassador to offer the necessary assistance on student exit seals, seeing the emergency situation in the country, and regardless of the existing directives.

It should be mentioned that this is the second phone call by the foreign minister following last week's contact with the Islamic Republic's ambassador to Kiev amid the unfolding critical situation in Ukraine.

Moreover, starting from the onset of the current crisis in Ukraine, the foreign ministry formed a special task force for the purpose. The task force, that is headed by the deputy minister for administrative and financial affairs, also involves the deputy minister for consular affairs and the political director general for Eurasia, as well as the ambassador as a virtual member to coordinate affairs.

The aim of the task force is to monitor the latest developments in Ukraine, to draw out the necessary guidelines for assistance to resident fellow nationals in the country and put Iran's embassies in countries neighboring Ukraine on special notice with the aim of

the evacuation of Iranians in case of an emergency situation.

Amir Abdollahian called on Iranians residing in Ukraine to keep cool and contact the Iranian embassy, while taking note of the guidelines issued by the Iranian embassy in Ukraine, and move to take shelter in safe areas or to exit the country and return to Iran.

Iran has said the war in Ukraine was a result of NATO provocations.

"The #Ukraine crisis is rooted in NATO's provocations. We don't believe that resorting to war is a solution. Imperative to establish ceasefire & to find a political and democratic resolution," the Iranian foreign minister said on Twitter.

Khatibzadeh has commented on the latest developments in Ukraine, noting that Iran is pursuing issues related to the country with sensitivity. The spokesman added that Iran invites all sides to exercise restraint and believes any action that could escalate tensions should be avoided. Khatibzadeh also called on all sides to work to resolve disagreements thought talks and

within a peaceful framework. "Unfortunately, interference and provocative measures by NATO and led by the U.S. have made things more complicated in this region," he said.

struggled to keep him under wraps and his involvement in both goals was a reflection of the excellent season he's currently having.

After initially being booked for simulation, Porto striker Taremi has his booking rescinded and earns his side a penalty after a VAR check in the 30th minute.

Taremi stepped up and fired Porto level. It's 1-1 on the night with Porto leading 3-2 on aggregate.

In the 68th minute, Porto took the lead at the Olimpico. A wonderfully-worked goal, started by Taremi and finished off by Uribe saw Porto took the lead on the night.

The match finished 2-2 at the end and Porto advanced to the next stage thanks to the first leg 2-1 win in Portugal.

Iran's recurve team into World **Para Archery Championships final**

TEHRAN - Iran's men's recurve team advance to the final match of the Dubai 2022 World Para Archery Championships.

Gholamreza Rahimi and Asghar Zarei Nejad defeated Turkey 5-3 and booked a place in the final match.

Iran will face Britain in the final match on Sunday. A total of 223 archers from 40 nations compete in the championships.

The event started on February 22 and will finish on February 27.

International Women's Day Recognition, with winners to be announced on 8 March's global celebration of women and gender equality.

Masoud Hossein, [2/25/2022 5:14 PM]

Three outstanding female candidates each respectively make up the Leadership and Emerging Leadership category. Three organizations have been shortlisted for the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) and International Federation (IF) category.

The awards primarily recognize women in the Paralympic Movement who inspire and emulate the Paralympic ideals and serve as positive role models.

Following hundreds of nominations, this year the shortlisted women and organizations nominated come from Zimbabwe, Malaysia, Iran, Botswana, Singapore, New Zealand, Canada and Mongolia.

The Leadership category recognizes sustained and consistent leadership over a period of time, advocacy, overall contributions and impact promoting and supporting women in sport. Candidates considered included coaches. current or former athletes. administrators and officials.

Rakhshani, current chairperson of the Asian Paralympic Committee's Women in Sport Committee, has a substantial influence on women in Para sport in Iran.

A two-term vice-president of NPC Iran, she increased the number of females in the Iranian delegation at the Paralympic Games from less than five per cent at the London 2012 to 17 percent at the Rio 2016.

Through her athleticism as a Para swimmer, Rakhshani also works to involve communities in physical activity.

Oripa Mubika from Zimbabwe and Malaysian Ras Adiba Radzi are also nominated for the award.

ECONOMY

FEBRUARY 26, 2022 Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

Iraqi central bank governor visits Iran, seeks closer ties

establishing joint SEZs in border areas



CBI Governor Ali Saleh-Abadi (R) and Central Bank of Iraq's Governor Mustafa Ghaleb

Iran, Pakistan mulling over

From page **1** > Emphasizing that interaction with neighbors is one of the priorities of Iran's foreign policy he said: "Among the neighbors of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq has a special position due to deep religious, cultural and historical ties, with Iran."

Referring to the serious determination of the two countries in developing allout ties, especially banking, economic and industrial ones, Mokhber also stressed the need to accelerate the implementation of the already signed MOUs between the two countries

He called for boosting interactions between the central banks of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq.

Iran expected to have a strong comeback to oil market: report

of the crude oil stored at Iranian

stationary tankers at 65 to 80 million barrels, citing the data

About four-fifths of the stored

crude is condensate, a super-

light oil that's a by-product

of natural gas extraction. The

overall Iranian volume is higher

if crude that's already in transit

Oil markets are tracking the

possible return of official Iranian

flows just as benchmark Brent

topped \$100 a barrel with the

outbreak of conflict in Ukraine.

An Iranian deal may just be

near: there has been significant

progress and the sides are

close to a possible agreement

is included, the report said.

intelligence firm Kpler.

TEHRAN - Iran is expected to have a strong comeback to the global market in case the nuclear deal is revived and the U.S. sanctions on the country are lifted, Bloomberg reported on Thursday.

According to the report, considering the capacity of Iran's offshore oil storages, the Islamic Republic will be able to inject millions of barrels of oil into the market as soon as the sanctions are lifted, without the need for boosting the current level of production.

Asian countries including South Korea are likely to be among the first in line to ship in Iranian cargoes.

Bloomberg puts the estimation

resolved, according to U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price. A breakthrough would pave the way for U.S. sanctions on Tehran's oil to be lifted.

While insurance and finance matters may take time to sort after any nuclear deal is agreed, the Iranian oil held in tankers indicates these barrels can be shipped immediately once sold, according to Anoop Singh, head of East of Suez tanker research at Braemar ACM Shipbroking Pte in Singapore.

"We think a lot of that will flow to South Korea," Singh said. "And that may in future also hit South Korean imports of naphtha and light U.S. crude."

customers due to its highquality crude oil and relatively cheap pricing, according to traders. While prices will be renegotiated, the Iranian variety is typically sold at about \$2 a barrel lower than the comparable Qatari condensate, they said.

Although China has taken significant volumes of Iranian crude despite the sanctions, the world's biggest oil consumer doesn't have many socalled splitter units that use condensate as feedstock. With the absence of South Korean buyers, just six condensate cargoes were exported to Venezuela in 2020-2021, said Homayoun Falakshahi, senior commodity analyst at Kpler.

if some detailed issues are Iran is likely to win back

TEHRAN – Pakistan has proposed the establishment of joint Special Economic Zones (SEZ) at the border with Iran in order to boost the trade between the two countries, and the Islamic Republic has welcomed the idea, Pakistani press reported.

The proposal was made by Head of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Mian Nauman Kabir during a meeting with the representatives of the Iranian private sector at the place of Mashhad Chamber of Commerce and Industries in Iran's northeastern Khorasan Razavi Province, The News reported.

The meeting was aimed to discuss trade opportunities and challenges in order to boost bilateral economic relations between Pakistan and Iran.

The attendees of the mentioned gathering stressed the need for establishing a mechanism to support businesses and improve regional economic conditions while agreeing that bilateral trade between the two countries was too low considering the two sides' potentials.

In this regard, the Pakistani side called for

establishing joint ventures to commensurate mutual trade with respect to the potential of both countries.

Addressing the meeting, Kabir said there was a dire need to enhance business-to-business relations between Pakistan and Iran to steer socio-economic improvement in the region.

He invited Iranian businesses to visit Pakistan in order to explore the potential economic areas for mutual cooperation.

Lack of information and knowledge about the two countries' businesses was mentioned by the attendees as one of the biggest reasons for the two countries' low trade volume, stressing that the private sectors of both sides should take the necessary steps in that regard.

Kabir also suggested issuing long-term multiple entry visas to businessmen of both the countries for promotion of bilateral trade.

The official noted that both countries should adopt a new approach in order to move towards their target economic goals at an accelerated pace.

National conference on economic diplomacy held in Tehran

TEHRAN - Imam Sadiq University's Institute of Economic Diplomacy held the first National Conference of Iran's Economic Diplomacy on Thursday in which the opportunities and challenges of expanding economic relations with the neighbors and with the world were discussed.

Organized in collaboration with Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), the conference was attended by the representatives of various trade and economy-related organizations and institutions including the TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari and the chamber's Secretary General Bahman Eshqi, the TCCIMA portal reported.

Speaking at the conference, Khansari described the development of political diplomacy and economic progress as the two wings needed for success in economic diplomacy and said: "In order to succeed in diplomacy, first of all, economic stability



must be established and sustained within the country in its true sense."

Emphasizing that the proper use of economic diplomacy in the country requires using the capacities of the private sector and trusting the country's businessmen and entrepreneurs, Khansari added: "Constructive interaction with the world with the aim of maximum benefit and securing national interests is the main condition for success in economic diplomacy. Therefore, in order to achieve

this, attracting foreign investment and transferring the latest technology to the country will be doubly important.'

He referred to the economic situation of the country and reminded that during the last three years, the ratio of investment growth to capital depreciation has been negative.

"Developing practical and integrated solutions to return stability to the country's economy today is necessary and vital," Khansari stressed.

He further mentioned the government's goals for prioritizing the expansion of trade with the neighboring countries and said: "Studies show that the share of Iran's neighbors in the global economy is about five percent and this share has not changed much in the last 70 years. Thus, in its mere interaction with its neighbors, Iran actually interacts with five percent of the world economy."

Tashkent to host Iran's production, industry achievements exhibit in March

TEHRAN- Uzbekistan's capital city Tashkent will host an exhibition of Iranian producers and industrialists' achievements during March 7-9.

Optimizing the opportunity to establish economic relations with Uzbek businessmen and traders with the aim of trying to enter the markets of Central Asia and the Caucasus region in order to increase non-oil exports is the main objective to hold this exhibition.

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.

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 also shown a determination for the for the expansion of all-out ties with Uzbekistan.



development of economic relations.

meeting and said during that meeting agreements have been positive reached.

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

TSE's main index rises 6,000 points in a week

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 6,000 points (less than one percent) to 1.288 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

During the past week, the indices of Isfahan Oil Refinery, Tehran Oil Refining Company, Bandar Abbas



The followings are the main groups of products to be showcased in the exhibition:

- Oil, gas, chemical and petrochemical products, water and wastewater and related equipment

- Constructional materials, electrical products, wooden products

- Agricultural products, equipment and machinery

- Medical, dentistry and laboratory equipment and pharmaceuticals

- Food industries and packaging machinery

- Knowledge-based companies and startups products

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 (February 20).

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

Elsewhere in the meeting, Uzbekistan's Agriculture Minister Jamshid Khodjaev mentioned a meeting with his Iranian counterpart before the joint economic committee

sector.

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.

Oil Refining Company, Iran Khodro Company, Saipa Company, National Iranian Copper Company, and Bank Mellat were the most widely followed ones.

On January 22, Head of Iran's Capital Market Development and Stabilization Fund Amir-Mahdi Sabaei said that part of the allocations by the National Development Fund (NDF) has been deposited into the stabilization fund to support the stock market.

Sabaei had previously announced the allocation of 120 trillion rials (about \$430 million) of NDF resources for the Capital Market Development and Stabilization Fund.

The official said the rest of the funding will also be paid based on a mutually agreed schedule, adding: "We hope that the rest of the deposits, like the deposits made yesterday, will be made regularly according to the agreed schedule."

Sabaei noted that in addition to the resources received from the NDF, the fund can also be financed through the money and capital markets.

The allocation of financial resources from NDF to the Capital Market Stabilization Fund is one of the measures that the government has been taking since the stock market started a downward trend.

Following the 13th government's new strategies to improve the stock market, the Government Economic Headquarters Coordination convened a meeting on November 2, 2021, chaired by President Ebrahim Raisi, during which a decision was made to inject new resources from NDF into the Capital Market Development and Stabilization Fund.

Based on the statute of Capital Market Development and Stabilization Fund, the resources of this fund can be provided from three main sources, the first is the government investment which should be foreseen in the national budget bill, the second is the allocation of one percent of the NDF resources for this fund, and the third source would be the allocation of a part of the trades commission received by the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO).

According to Sabaei, currently, 30 percent of the SEO commissions are deposited directly to the account of this fund on a daily basis.

The Capital Market Development and Stabilization Fund's mission is to support the Iranian stock market. The money loaned from NDF should be repaid over a specified period and the maturity can be extended. The Capital Market Stabilization Fund is responsible for paying the principal amount plus interest.

Russia-West tension can affect any possible agreement with Iran: professor

From page **1** I very much hope that a mutually acceptable agreement can be reached - one that brings Iran fully back into the global economy, that is effective in committing Iran to nuclear non-proliferation, and that contributes to the reduction of violence in the Persian Gulf and larger Middle Eastern (West Asian) region.

I think that an agreement that achieves these three goals is in the best interest of the West, of the Iranian people, and of the world more generally. Given the obstacles to reaching such an agreement, however, I think considerable doubt is warranted that it can in fact be achieved. That progress has been reported in Vienna is, of course, a good sign. Until all the parties formally and publicly announce that an agreement has definitively been reached, however, I think any celebration is very, very premature.

Even given the interest that all parties share in reaching an agreement, the fact that the United States cannot, as a legal or practical matter, provide guarantees that it would not reimpose sanctions should it believe this necessary, like the fact that Iran is unable or unwilling to provide guarantees that it will not resume activities that would yield the capacity to produce nuclear weapons, makes an agreement politically difficult. An agreement would require not only that both governments be willing to trust the other, but that they acknowledge to their own public that this is the case.

What Iranians need to understand is that, unfortunately, the American public is deeply skeptical about the Iranian government. Any agreement that might appear to be making concessions to Iran or that requires the United States to trust the Iranian government will be very unpopular with the Americans. Even those members of Congress who themselves believe that an agreement is desirable will be sensitive to the views of their constituents.

The American public's hostility toward the Iranian government dates back to the "Hostage Crisis" of 1979-80, which was a searing experience for Americans of that generation.

Americans remain aware that Iranian leaders have, in the past, referred to the United States as "the Great Satan." Americans are, for the most part, deeply religious people, and while they may be willing to admit to making mistakes, they are unlikely to be forgiving or trusting with anyone who describes them as being supporters of Satan. That Iran has been openly hostile toward Israel is a further problem for many American Christians who regard the existence of Israel as having Biblical significance.

Given this background, building trust between



America and Iran is likely to be a task that takes generations. Not much progress is currently being made.

For the Biden administration, any agreement in Vienna - short of one that commits Iran to continuous, unconstrained monitoring of plausibly atomic-related facilities by international observers and that offers meaningful guarantees that Iran will cease supporting its allies in the region - will be politically very costly. Especially with midterm elections on the horizon, members of his party in Congress will be urging caution.

The current crisis in relations between Russia and the West both increases and decreases the attractiveness of an agreement. Obviously, reductions in the supply of oil and natural gas from Russia to Europe make bringing Iran fully back into world energy markets attractive. At the same time, however, in this environment of heightened tension, any "concessions" to anyone become more and more difficult.

What will be the implications of a JCPOA revival for the world and the relations between Iran and the West?

The Obama administration's hope had been that the JCPOA would open the door toward more broadly improved relations between Iran and the West. This never materialized – in the first place because of Iran's continued support of anti-Western groups in the region, and then because of the Trump administration's imposition of sanctions. If the original JCPOA did not create conditions for further progress, it is hard to be optimistic that a return to JCPOA will do so.

Indeed, reports in the Western press are that the Iranian government has explicitly ruled out the possibility that a return to the JCPOA might open the door to wider cooperation. Whatever the case, however, there is very little optimism that the JCPOA by itself will lead to improved relations. What would be necessary would be a substantial change in rhetoric on both sides, visible steps in cooperating on matters of shared interest (for example, in medicine, literature, music, or the visual arts), and some indication that the major foreign policy differences between the two states can in fact be addressed.

Which sides are the main opponents of JCPOA revival in the U.S.? How can they make the restoration of the deal costly?

What needs to be emphasized is that the principal opponent to the JCPOA is the American public. In saying this, I also need to make clear that only a tiny handful of Americans are aware of U.S. sanctions on Iran or of the fact that the Vienna negotiations have been taking place. But opinion leaders are aware that the American public could easily be mobilized in opposition to the JCPOA and can probably not be mobilized in support.

For purely political reasons, so long as it is the Biden administration conducting the negotiations, Republicans are likely opponents of the JCPOA. So long as the Israeli government views the JCPOA as dangerous, supporters of Israel – fundamentalist Christians even more than Jews – are also likely to mobilize opposition. Beyond this, the wide variety of interest groups that have economic or other ties to Arab states that feel threatened by Iran's foreign policies are also to be inclined to oppose the JCPOA. The Biden administration is thus likely to face considerable political opposition within the Democratic Party as well.

Why do hawkish politicians and Republicans insist on engaging the U.S. in costly clashes around the world?

It is important to avoid simplistic answers. A lesson that many Americans learned from the war against Nazism, fascism, and nationalistmilitarism in the 1940s; from the longer Cold War against communism in the 1950s-1990s; and from the experience of terrorist attacks on ordinary civilians is that there is evil in the world, and that simply ignoring this evil is not an option.

Although they are unaware of this, the thinking of most Americans is deeply influenced by the early Christian theologian Augustine of Hippo and by 20th-century Christian theologians such as Reinhold Niebuhr. Even though most Americans themselves are completely unaware of their own religious and philosophical presumptions about the world, no one should underestimate how deeply rooted most Americans are in these philosophic traditions.

Do you predict the U.S. Congress would create hurdles in the path to revive the JCPOA at least in the future or after the Biden administration?

If Congress is forced to weigh in on the JCPOA at the present time, a return to the JCPOA will not happen. In time, Congress and the American people may well become more supportive.



TEHRAN- The escalating tensions between Russia and Ukraine are on the rise for the second day as Kiev faced a barrage of explosions.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy rued being "left alone" by the West and announced readiness to declare neutrality.

As violent fighting raged on the edges of Kiev, Russia's military



Friday, targeting 70% of the Russian financial industry and critical stateowned enterprises.

In a press conference, President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, said that a fresh round of sanctions "will impose massive and severe consequences on Russia for its action, in close coordination with our partners and allies."



Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

Russian military forces reach Ukrainian capital

TEHRAN-Air raid sirens have gone off in Kiev as Russian forces have reportedly closed in on the Ukrainian capital. Loud explosions have been heard across the city amid reports suggesting gunfire near a government district and the city center.

There are some reports that Russian forces have entered the Ukrainian capital.

According to Ukrainian media, Russian forces have entered the Obolon district of the capital where the Ukrainian military is fighting them. The district is around ten kilometers away from central Kiev.

Ukraine deputy defense minister says his country's armed units are defending positions in Kiev on four fronts. The country has decreed a full military mobilization and all men aged 18 to 60 have been told they are forbidden from leaving the country.

The mayor of Kiev, Vitali Klitschko, says the city has entered into a defensive phase as Russian forces advance and look set to enter the capital from different positions.

A curfew has also been imposed in the Ukrainian capital between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am. This is while members of the volunteer territorial defense battalions, who have received about 10,000 assault rifles, are patrolling the city's streets.

Russian forces have taken control of Hostomel airport near Kiev, Russian media has reported.

Russia's military has said it has blocked Kiev from the western side as it captured the strategic Hostomel airport outside the capital. The Hostomel airfield has been the scene of some of the most intense clashes between Russian and Ukrainian forces. The airfield in the airport has a considerably long runway that is capable of allowing heavy transport planes to land.

The airport is around 25 km to the northwest of Kiev, and could effectively seal off western approaches to the Ukrainian capital.

The Russian defense ministry spokesman also says that more than 200 soldiers from the Ukrainian special units had been killed. Journalists on the ground have reported more Ukrainian military vehicles entering Kiev to defend the capital.

One Russian news agency has cited the country's defense ministry as saying Russian armed forces will not strike the residential areas of Kiev and elsewhere in Ukraine.

Footage published by Ukrainian media shows buildings under fire reported to be in various cities across the country.

A UNHCR spokesperson says some 100,000 people in Ukraine have already fled their homes and may be displaced inside the country and several thousand others have sought refuge in neighboring countries.

Outside the capital, Moscow has confirmed that its paratroopers have taken control of the area around the Chernobyl nuclear plant north of the Kiev region. Ukrainian officials have confirmed



Russia's military operations on Thursday morning, the country's armed forces have destroyed scores of "Ukrainian military ground infrastructure".

By Friday morning, the spokesman says Russian troops had disabled 118 Ukrainian military facilities, including 11 military airfields, 13 command and communications points, 36 radar stations and 14 anti-aircraft missile systems. In addition, 11 Ukrainian aircraft have been downed, 18 tanks and other armored vehicles, seven multiple-launch rocket systems and five gunboats have been destroyed.

The Ukrainian government has already declared martial law across the country with authorities calling on its citizens to fight off Russian forces in the capital and prepare Molotov cocktails and other firebombs. Ukrainian citizens have also been offered the weapon of their choice from a variety of small firearms including automatic weapons.

President Volodymyr Zelensky has criticized Western allies for leaving his country to fight alone. In a video address, Zelensky asked "who is ready to fight alongside us? I don't see anyone. Who is ready to give Ukraine a guarantee of freedom NATO membership? Everyone is afraid".

Zelensky also said that at least 137 Ukrainians, both military personnel and civilians, have died since the start of the Russian military operation early Thursday, while another 316 have been wounded. Ukrainian officials are expected to revise the casualty figures as Zelensky's announcement was made before heavy fighting on Friday.

According to Chinese state media, Russian President Vladimir Putin told China's president Xi Jinping in a phone call on Friday that Russia is willing to hold high level talks with Ukraine.

CCTV says President Xi told his Russian counterpart that Beijing supports Moscow in efforts to resolve the Ukraine crisis through dialogue.

According to Russia's Foreign Intelligence chief, the path forward for Ukraine is "neutrality" after an adviser to President Zelensky suggested Kiev was ready for talks with Moscow, including on adopting a neutral status regarding NATO.

The Kremlin says it has taken note of the statement made by Ukrainian Presidential advisor Mykhailo Podolyak and was in the process of analyzing his comments.

In the meantime, the Kremlin has issued several

advanced deep into Ukraine.

According to Russia's defense ministry, forces took Zmiinyi Island in the Black Sea, where 82 Ukrainian forces surrendered. According to Ukrainian officials, heavy battle is taking place in the city of Sumy in the country's northeast.

According to the Interfax-Ukraine news agency, two explosions were reported near Kiev. At least eight people were wounded when the plane crashed into an apartment building and set it on fire. Dmytro Kuleba, Ukraine's Foreign Minister, claimed Kiev had been subjected to "horrific Russian missile assaults."

Ukraine's nuclear agency said it was recording increased radiation levels from the site of the defunct Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

The agency's experts did not disclose specific radiation levels, but said that the shift was caused by the movement of heavy military equipment in the vicinity, which lifted radioactive dust into the air.

A spokesman for Russia's defense ministry stressed that Moscow will send paratroopers to assist help the nuclear power facility near Ukraine's capital.

The radiation levels at the facility are normal, according to a representative during a press conference. He also said that Russian

soldiers have damaged 118 Ukrainian military infrastructure facilities.

In the meantime, the governor of Russia's southern Belgorod province stated that shelling from Ukraine had destroyed seven residential structures in the area.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov noted in a statement that Russia will come to terms with Ukraine in case of that it agreed to stay neutral, and not maintain any Western weapons on its territory.

Peskov emphasized that discussions about the terms of surrender would generally involve Ukraine's "demilitarization and denazification."

President Zelensky said that he is not frightened to discuss neutrality, despite the fact that his plea for NATO membership remained rebuffed by European leaders.

Late Thursday, Russia's military declared that it had "successfully" completed its objectives for the first day of conflict with Ukrainian soldiers in the Donbas area.

"All of the tasks assigned to the groups of troops of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation for the day were successfully completed," Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said.

Zelensky reiterated that his country has been left stranded in an escalating tension with Russia.

"We have been left alone to defend our state," Zelensky said in a postmidnight video address to the nation. "Who is ready to fight alongside us? I don't see anyone. Who is ready to give Ukraine a guarantee of NATO membership? Everyone is afraid."

Since the beginning of the attack, Zelensky said, 137 Ukrainians whether military personnel or civilians lost their lives and 316 more had been injured.

He said that Russian forces had reached Kiev and asked residents to be watchful and adhere to a curfew. Despite Russia's designation of him as "target number one," Ukraine's president stated he and his family will remain in the country.

According to the UN refugee agency, approximately 100,000 people have been internally displaced, with thousands more having fled Ukraine since the fighting began.

The European Union launched what it called "the harshest package of sanctions" on Moscow early

She added that Russian assets and banks' access to bloc's financial markets will be frozen and blocked.

On Thursday, the U.S. unveiled a fresh round of sanctions on Moscow, targeting five main Russian banks. Consequently, Canada, Australia, and UK have taken similar steps.

French President Emmanuel Macron, "while condemning, while sanctioning," announced on Friday that Paris remained useful "to leave this path open so that the day when the conditions can be fulfilled, we can obtain a cessation of hostilities."

U.S. House speaker Nancy Pelosi noted that lawmakers demand to provide Ukraine with \$600 million for "lethal defense weapons".

"What we're doing with Ukraine is making sure that we have humanitarian assistance to help the people; that we have lethal defense weapons going into Ukraine to the tune of \$600 million for them to fight their own fight," she told reporters in San Francisco.

What is palpable is the outcomes of trust to the Western countries bearing no fruit. The Western countries especially the U.S. have over and over proven that they will always lay out conditions to trigger a kind of crisis in various countries to capitalize on their weaknesses. Once fallen, they will be left stranded. losing control of the now decommissioned nuclear site.

The Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency says there has been "no casualties or destruction at the industrial site", when an explosion in 1986 led to the worst nuclear disaster in human history.

Both Kiev and Moscow have confirmed that the Ukrainian Island of Zmiinyi in the Black Sea has been captured by Russian forces.

The Russian defense ministry also says Russian forces have advanced on the city of Chernihiv.

Missile strikes and air raid alerts have been reported in a number of other Ukrainian cities. The mayor of the eastern city of Kharkiv has urged residents to head to subway stations, bomb shelters and basements.

The Black Sea port city of Odesa has also been the scene of clashes between the two sides.

The mayor of Donetsk, says the "bombardment" of the self-declared breakaway republic using Grad multiple launch rocket systems have resulted in civilians' casualties.

Alexey Kulemzin says "Donetsk is again under fire" by Ukrainian forces, "as a result of the bombardment with the Grad multiple launch rocket systems, civilians were wounded in the central part of the Kuybyshevsky district".

Ukrainian airspace has been closed to all civilian aircraft, according to Eurocontrol, which manages European air traffic. A formal notice to pilots and operators has been sent warning of the "potential hazard for civil aviation".

Russian media have cited a defense ministry spokesman as saying that since the start of

statements saying Russian "President Putin will address the UN Security Council and hold several international phone calls".

Russia will impose retaliatory sanctions on western countries who have hit Moscow with the punitive measures. The Kremlin says Western sanctions will cause problems but are solvable since the country has reduced its dependence on foreign imports.

According to reports, the EU will freeze the assets of Russia's president Vladimir Putin and foreign minister Sergei Lavrov as part of a third round of sanctions against Russia.

The Kremlin also said Moscow recognizes Volodymyr Zelensky as the president of Ukraine. It added that Russia expects relations with the west to normalize once people understand it was forced to act to protect its security.

The Kremlin made no comment on the duration of the military operations.

However, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Russian news agencies that Russia is ready to send a delegation to the Belarusian capital Minsk for talks with Ukraine. According to Peskov, the delegation of officials could include representatives from both country's foreign and defense ministries.

NATO promised Ukraine eventual membership back in 2008, drawing sharp anger from Moscow. In the run-up to Russia's military action, the Kremlin had demanded that the U.S.-led alliance give assurances that Kiev will never be accepted into NATO, accusing the alliance of encroaching on its borders.

NATO and Washington refused to provide such guarantees to Moscow.

TOURISM



Over 2m Iranians engaged in handicraft sector, deputy minister says



TEHRAN – The deputy minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism has said more than two million Iranians are directly or indirectly engaged in the handicraft sector.

"More than two million people work directly or indirectly in the field of handicrafts, which is linked with production, employment, and entrepreneurship," Pouya Mahmoudian said on Thursday.

Currently, 299 fields of handicrafts are practiced across the country, she said.

Mahmoudian made the remarks during a visit to Kerman, adding "Iran is one of the top three countries in the world in terms of production and diversity of handicrafts..."

When it comes to handicrafts, the high capacity of the sector, diversity of ethnic groups whose skills have been passed down from generation to generation, and in particular the role of women is significant, she mentioned.

"Handicraft production is the only source of income in some villages of Kerman province."

Baloch embroidery, hand-woven kilim carpets, wicker works, pateh, and precious and semiprecious gemstones are among handicrafts being produced in Kerman, which is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, SistanBaluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south. Big and sprawling Kerman province is something of a cultural melting pot, blending various regional cultures over time. It is also home to rich tourist spots and historical sites including bazaars, mosques, caravanserais, and ruins of ancient urban areas.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next.

The value of Iran's handicrafts exports stood at \$120 million during the first eleven months of the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020 - February 18, 2021), Mehr reported. The country's handicrafts exports slumped during the mentioned months in comparison to the same period last a year earlier due to the damage the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on global trade.

The Islamic Republic exported \$427 million worth of handicrafts during the first eleven months of the calendar year 1398. Of the figure, some \$190 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through 20 provinces, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Elamite inscription attributed to Xerxes the Great found in Persepolis

From page **1** According to the inventory of the Persepolis Museum, a similar fragment was found in 1949, south of the Palace of Xerxes (west wing of the socalled Harem building).

Elamite language, extinct language spoken by the Elamites in the ancient country of Elam, which included the region from the Mesopotamian plain to the Iranian Plateau. According to Britannica, Elamite documents from three historical periods have been found. The earliest Elamite writings are in a figurative or pictographic script and date from the middle of the 3rd millennium BC.

Documents from the second period, which lasted from the 16th to the 8th century BC, are written in cuneiform; the stage of the language found in these documents is sometimes called Old Elamite.

The last period of Elamite texts is that of the reign of the Achaemenian kings of Persia (6th to 4th century BC), who used Elamite, along with Akkadian and Old Persian, in their inscriptions. The language of this period, also written in the cuneiform script, is often called New Elamite.

As mentioned by Encyclopedia Iranica, Elamite clay tablets were discovered in Persepolis in 1933-34 and 1936-38 by the archaeological expedition of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. They belonged to administrative records kept by agencies of the Achaemenid government during the reigns of Darius the Great, Xerxes, and Artaxerxes I.

The first group of the texts was found in the Fortification area at the northeastern corner of the terrace platform, hence their designation as "Persepolis Fortification Tablets." The find consisted of over 30,000 tablets,



whole or fragmentary, of which 2,120 texts have already been edited and translated by Richard T. Hallock, while the rest remain unpublished. The documents were drafted between the 13th and the 28th regnal years of Darius I, that is, from 509 to 494 BC. Although all were found in Persepolis, they originated from a large area of Persis and Elam, and some were written in Susa.

The second group of the tablets was discovered in a northeastern room of the Treasury of Xerxes; hence they are conventionally called "Persepolis Treasury Tablets." They date from the 30th year of the reign of Darius I to the 7th year of the reign of Artaxerxes 1 (i.e., 492-458 BC). In all 753 tablets and fragments were discovered, and of these, 128 have so far been published. A large number of the fragments are too worn out or broken to afford connected texts and meaningful readings.

The Fortification Tablets include many records of transactions (chiefly concerned with the distribution of foodstuffs, management of flocks, and provisioning of workers and travelers) at locations throughout most of Persis and eastern Elam, and probably at some locations to the northwest and southeast of those areas. The records drawn

up at those sites were sent to a central office at Persepolis. The Fortification texts also include many records compiling and tabulating information from similar registrations into accounts covering many months, relatively large areas, or both. These compilations were made in the offices of Persepolis itself. The tables vary in size, shape, and format. Many of them are small in format and record single transactions or single groups of transactions in outlying areas.

The Persepolis texts also constitute a valuable source for the study of the Old Iranian lexicon, since they contain many Iranian words and names in Elamite garb. Of the approximately 1, 900 names in the texts, one-tenth are Elamite and a small number Babylonian, while the rest (nearly 1,700) are Iranian.

It is worth mentioning in passing that a Babylonian private legal document drafted at Persepolis in the time of Darius I has been preserved among the Fortification tablets. One Babylonian document has also been found among the Treasury tablets. It records the payment of state taxes by several Medes in 502. Finally, a short inscription scrawled in Ionic letters has been found among the Fortification tablets.

In 2019, hundreds of Achaemenid

clay tablets and related fragments, which were on loan from Iran to the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago since 1935, were returned home. Archaeologists affiliated with the University of Chicago discovered the tablets in the 1930s while excavating in Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Persian Empire. However, the institute has resumed work in collaboration with colleagues in Iran, and the return of the tablets is part of a broadening of contacts between scholars in the two countries, said Gil Stein, director of the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago.

The Achaemenid [Persian] Empire was the largest and most durable empire of its time. The empire stretched from Ethiopia, through Egypt, to Greece, to Anatolia (modern Turkey), Central Asia, and to India.

The royal city of Persepolis ranks among the archaeological sites which have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art. Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, whose magnificent ruins rest at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (Mountain of Mercy) is situated 60 kilometers northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars province.

Persepolis was burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as revenge to the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 vears earlier. The city's immense terrace was begun about 518 BC by Darius the Great, the Achaemenid Empire's king. On this terrace, successive kings erected a series of architecturally stunning palatial buildings, among them the massive Apadana palace and the Throne Hall ("Hundred-Column Hall").

Iran to host intl. conference on archaeology

TEHRAN - Iran will be hosting an online international conference on archaeology and cultural heritage, which is scheduled to take place from February 26 to 28.

Co-organized by the Iranian Center for Archaeological Research (ICAR); Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ministry; and the National Museum of Iran, the annual event will turn the spotlight on countrywide excavations being held across the country during the past couple of months.

The discovery of a majestic gateway, built upon the order of Cyrus the Great, who was the founder of the mighty Achaemenid Empire (ca. 550 - 330 BC), will be one of the themes of the conference, according to organizers. Supervised by a joint mission of Iranian and Italian archaeologists and cultural heritage experts, the dig uncovered vestiges of a massive gateway measuring 30 by 40 meters with a height of approximately 12 meters.

Moreover, the 19th Annual Symposium



on the Iranian Archaeology is aimed to discuss the latest archaeological work carried out near the UNESCO-designated Tchogha Zanbil, which is widely known as the world's best surviving example of Elamite architecture.

Over the past year, tens of

place to study the process of transition from Paleolithic to Neolithic and the process of creating the first human settlements in this part of the Zagros mountain range.

The first well-documented evidence of human habitation is in deposits from several excavated cave and rock-shelter sites, located mainly in the Zagros Mountains of western Iran and dated to Middle Paleolithic or Mousterian times (c. 100,000 BC).

From the Caspian in the northwest to Baluchistan in the southeast, the Iranian plateau extends for close to 2,000 km. It encompasses the greater part of Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan



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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Tender :

Broadcasting the TV network of Hispan TV on Hispasat30W satellite in accordance with the technical specification and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

archaeological surveys have been conducted across Iran. For instance, archaeologists discovered a gigantic prehistorical site in the southwest of the country last November.

Situated in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province, the site yielded evidence dating back to some 10,000 years ago. Archaeologies believe it is an important

west of the Indus River containing some 3,700,000 square kilometers. Despite being called a "plateau", it is far from flat but contains several mountain ranges, the highest peak being Damavand in the Alborz mountain range at 5610 m, and the Dasht-e Loot east of Kerman in Central Iran falling below 300 m.

Old trees in Qazvin made national heritage

TEHRAN - A selection of eight old trees, which stand in various villages of Qazvin province, have been added to Iran's national list of natural heritage.

The Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ministry registered eight trees of walnut, mulberry, juniper, and plane on the prestigious list, Mehr reported on Friday.

For millennia, Iranian gardens have combined the magic of nature with the aesthetic qualities of art and architecture to create a symbolic representation of paradise on Earth. UNESCO describes the Persian Garden as an idea that combines natural elements with manmade components to materialize the concept of Eden or Paradise on Earth.

In 2011, a selection of nine Iranian gardens, which bear important architectural, traditional, and cultural elements, was collectively inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list under the



title of "The Persian Garden."

The genuine concept of the Persian Garden that is deeply rooted in time interweaves natural elements with manmade components to embody an idea of creating a paradise on Earth by the means of artistic, philosophical, figurative, and religious notions.

According to UNESCO, the flawless design of the Persian Garden, along with its ability to respond to extreme climatic conditions, is the result of an inspired and intelligent application of different fields of knowledge, i.e. technology,

water management and engineering architecture, botany, and agriculture.

Qazvin was once the capital of the mighty Persian Empire, under Safavids, from 1548 to 98. It is a major tourist destination with a wonderfully restored caravanserai-turned-arts precinct, some quirky museums, and a handful of decent eating options. For most travelers, Qazvin is also primarily the staging point for excursions to the famous Castles of the Assassins and trekking in the sensational Alamut Valley.

Also known as the castle of the Assassins, the 12th-century Alamut castle is nestled on top of a peak. It was once a shelter for the followers of Hasan-e Sabbah (1070–1124) who was a spiritual leader of an Islamic sect. In the early 1930s, British-Italian explorer and travel writer Freya Stark described her exploration of the place in her book "The Valleys of the Assassins".

Deadline and how to receive the tender documents:

From Sunday 27 February 2022 (1400/12/08) until Saturday 05 March 2022 (1400/12/14) by 14:00 p.m with presentation of introductory letter by company or its representative and the receipt of paying the documents fee.

Place of receiving the tender document:

Interested participants may refer to purchasing (KALA) Dept., 4th Floor of IRIB Administration Complex, Hotel Esteghlal St. Vali – Assr Ave, Tehran, Iran

The fee of the tender documents and how to deposit it:

Submission of payment receipt for the amount of 1,000,000 Rials to account 4101029171204273 with BIC No.IR 310100004101029171204273 IRAN Central Bank in the name of IRIB.

Type and amount of guarantee for participation to tender:

The amount of deposit for participanting in tender is USD 37200 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 9300000000 which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

Time and place of delivering Bidding Envelopes

The sealed (A,B&C) packages/envelopes and the qualification evaluation package/envelope separately packed, should be submitted no later than 09:00 a.m. on Saturday 09 April 2022 (1401/01/20) at the address mentioned in 4th clause.

Time and place of opening Qualification Evaluation envelopes:

The date of opening the Qualification Evaluation envelopes is on Saturday 09 April 2022 (1401/01/20) at 10:00 a.m. in the office of International Purchasing Dept.

Time and place of opening Envelopes

The envelopes A of those eligible participants who meet the qualification criterion and approval of Technical and Commercial committee will be opened on Sunday 10 April 2022 at 03:00 p.m (1401/01/21) in the office of Financial Vice President .In case of complete content in the envelopes A the envelopes of B and C of eligible participants will be opened at the same time and place.

The participant must be qualified by the competent authorities.

Fore more information please see :

www.iriboffice.ir/tenders and http://iets.mporg.ir/ Tel: 00982122167053



UNDP supports efforts to conserve Iran's wetlands

TEHRAN - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is working closely with national and international development partners to conserve Iran's wetlands

Projects on the ground are informing best practices, improving systems, building capacities, and informing better national policies and plans, here are two examples:

Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (CIWP) is a joint initiative between Iran's Department of Environment (DOE), the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, and UNDP in Iran.

To date, the project has supported the introduction of integrated and participatory ecosystem-based approaches for the conservation of around 38 wetlands in Iran in more than 25 provinces.

Since 2014, together with the Government of Japan, UNDP have been supporting Lake Urmia restoration efforts. The project covers 202 villages in East and West Azarbaijan provinces.

To date, the following results have reached while working with around 14,000 farmers:

* Over 25% water saving for irrigation

* Over 55% reduction in the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides

Sustainable solutions and job generation with the aim of reducing pressure on water resources & economically empowering local women.

New three-year cooperation between the DoE, Japan, and UNDP Iran has been initiated to



up-scale successful practices to additional pilots in Lake Urmia basin and two new replication sites including Shadegan and Bakhtegan Wetlands.

Alongside this, UNDP Iran is implementing the Sistan Project – a joint initiative between the DoE, other national partners, and the European Union's Department of International Partnerships (DG INTPA) to boost socio-economic development in Sistan-Baluchestan province, restore Hamoun Wetlands and promote alternative climate-smart livelihoods.

To date, the following has been achieved:

* 120 project pilot sites have been selected

* A comprehensive study has been conducted to analyze the area's potential for the use of renewable energies. In accordance with the findings of this study, a practical business plan for four priority actions including renovation of solar power panels in the region, the establishment of

a training center for renewable energy, supporting the establishment of biogas site besides husbandry breeding is under development.

* The inhabitants of Takhtaks (small islands inside the dried wetlands that raise Sistani Cow) were equipped with water transport and storage tankers, portable solar panels for lightening purposes, and livestock sanitary items to enhance their resilience in extreme weather conditions.

* The process for implementation of Quick Win projects towards capacity development of local entities (NGOs and CBOs) has started and 14 projects have been approved by national partners in line with the region's development priorities.

The Hamouns are transboundarv wetlands on the border of Iran-Afghanistan and cover three lakes. The wetlands have always been a unique ecosystem of critical local, national and international importance with ecological and socio-economic values.

However, due to the acceleration of climate change, mismanagement of water resources, use of traditional irrigation systems by the local farmers, and lack of a formal agreement between Iran and Afghanistan, the once fertile wetlands have dried up drastically in the past two decades.

A bordering province with Afghanistan, UNDP Iran will continue to work closely with national and international partners to enhance the capacity and resilience of the refugee-hosting community.

February 2nd marks World Wetlands Day.

Wetlands cover around 6 percent of the Earth's land surface and 40 percent of all plant and animal species live or breed in wetlands.

Wetlands play an important role in coastal environments-economies: health, food supply, tourism, and jobs. Wetlands are providing essential ecosystem services such as water regulation, including flood control and water purification.

More than a billion people across the world depend on wetlands for their livelihoods - that's about one in eight people on Earth.

However, wetlands are among the ecosystems with the highest rates of decline, loss, and degradation.

Wetlands are disappearing three times faster than forests and are Earth's most threatened ecosystem. In just 50 years since 1970 - 35% of the world's wetlands have been lost.

Iran-Japan dialogue held on "Environment in Islam and Shinto"

From page **1** > The importance of religion in preserving the environment and nature in today's world is such that some consider religious teachings and theology among of the most important solutions to protect the environment, he stated.

The deep spiritual attention to the elements of nature and the environment exists in both Islam and Shinto, he stated.

By promoting and developing these concepts, the ground is provided to pay more attention to nature and prevent spiritual and moral crises caused by the contemporary world in dealing with the environment.

This is important in two ways. The first is the place and importance of the elements of nature in Islam and Shinto, and the second is the spread of the environmental crisis in the current world and the need to use the capacity of religions to control it, he highlighted.

The Abrahamic religions, such as Shinto, inherently contain very profound teachings to deal with the current crisis of environmental degradation, he stated.



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TEHRAN TIMES

FEBRUARY 26, 2022 Straight Truth

The environmental crisis of the present age cannot be solved without paying special attention to the spiritual dimension of the problem, and no one can deny the role of religion in compensating and reducing the severity of the situation, he further emphasized.

Previously, the first session of the religious dialogue, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution and the 90th anniversary of the beginning of official relations between Iran and Japan in February 2016 entitled "Family in Islam and Shinto" with the presence of scholars from both countries, was held in Ise city of Japan.

Over 6,300 prisoners of unintentional crimes freed



TEHRAN - A total of 6,362 inmates of involuntary crimes have been released since the beginning of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21, 2021), according to the head of the Blood Money Organization.

Freeing prisoners of involuntary crimes is done in three ways. The first way is granting prisoners leave and the second way is providing a number of them with loans to be paid inside the prison.

The third way of assistance is the release of unintentional convicts by paying their debt.

Some 252 of these released prisoners were female convicts and the rest were male debtors who were incarcerated due to inability to pay financial debts or inability to pay dues (workshop accidents and traffic accidents), Asadollah Joulaei said.

convicts, followed by East Azarbaijan, which released 437 convicts.

Since 1990, more than 150,000 unintentional crime doers who had debts have been freed. Currently, there are 10,680 prisoners of unintentional crimes in the country, of whom 4,673 are eligible for assistance.

14,600 inmates freed last year

Iranian benefactors helped release a total of 14,681 inmates of unintentional crimes across the country over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2020-March 2021), Hadi Sadeghi, an official with the Judiciary, has said.

Last year, a total of 35 trillion rials (nearly \$130 million) was donated to pay the debt of the released prisoners.

As an annual tradition, benefactors come together in a ceremony to raise funds for releasing prisoners of unintentional crimes during the holy month of Ramadan (which started on April 13 this year), through which, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei donated 5 billion rials (about \$18,000).

Iran to evacuate citizens from Ukraine 'as soon as possible'

TEHRAN – Transport Minister Rostam Qasemi has said a special flight will be arranged to evacuate Iranian citizens from Ukraine as soon as possible amid the ongoing crisis following Russia's military invasion.

"Within the shortest possible time, we will take measures to ensure the safety of our dear citizens residing in Ukraine and transport them back [to the country] through launching a special flight by [the national carrier] Homa,"

TEHRAN - The 11th International Innovation and Technology Exhibition (INOTEX 2022) will be held from May 10-13 at Tehran's Pardis Technology Park.

With the theme of 'innovation

Qasemi was quoted as saying by the Transport Ministry's portal.

"In coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we are negotiating with officials in Russia and Ukraine," he added.

Russia has launched an all-out invasion of Ukraine by land, air, and sea.

The attacks began on Thursday after Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a tele-

INOTEX 2022 slated for May

readiness for frontier technologies. tors, according to Iran National

Inventions Team.

vised address that he had approved a "special military operation". The move came after Moscow earlier recognized rebel-held territories in Luhansk and Donetsk and said they had asked for its "help".

Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh also said the Islamic Republic is closely monitoring developments in Ukraine with "serious concern".

> The inauguration will be concurrent with the second meeting of Iran and Turkey on commerce and technology which will be held in the city of Istanbul from February 27-March 2.

ecosystem under one roof', INOTEX is Iran's biggest technology event and the forerunner in the region, bringing technology and innovation experts around the world together to bridge the gap between innovators, investors, and traders.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNC-TAD) Technology and Innovation Report 2021 has placed Iran among upper-middle countries in terms of

1. Based on their rankings, countries are placed within one of four 25-percentile score groups: low. lower-middle, upper-middle, and high values of the index.

The index yielded results for

158 countries with the Unit-

ed States, Switzerland, and the

United Kingdom receiving the

highest scores on a scale of 0 to

The report has put Iran in the 71st position with a total score of 0.46, higher than Qatar, Oman, and Morocco.

Iran was also placed 82 in ICT, 74 in skills, 37 in R&D, 130 in industry, and 53 in finance sec- cally-made high-tech products.

To assess national capabilities to equitably use, adopt and adapt these technologies this report has developed a 'readiness index'. The index comprises five building blocks: ICT deployment, skills, R&D activity, industry activity, and access to finance, according to the report.

Only a few countries currently

create frontier technologies, but all

countries need to prepare for them.

Iran will soon inaugurate its fifth innovation center in Turkey aiming to find new markets for domesti-

Iran has already established innovation centers in Russia, Syria, China, and Kenya.

In December 2021, Marzieh Shaverdi, the manager of the Innovation and Prosperity Fund, said Iran will launch production lines of knowledge-based products in seven countries, namely Turkey, Armenia, Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, Syria, Irag, and Kenya.

The prisoners had a sum of 3 trillion rials (nearly \$111 million) in debt, and more than half of this amount have been forgiven by the plaintiffs, IRNA reported on Friday.

Isfahan's benefactors released the highest number of inmates amounting to 552

Last year, heads of the three branches of the government and the private sector donated 6.5 billion rials (nearly \$24,000) to release prisoners who had committed involuntary crimes.

Former President Hassan Rouhani, former Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani, and former Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi made a total of 3.9 billion rials (around \$14,000) in contributions to free prisoners of unintentional crimes.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON FEBRUARY 25

New cases	11,972
New deaths	214
Total cases	7,023,904
Total deaths	136,166
New hospitalized patients	1,940
Patients in critical condition	4,197
Total recovered patients	6,602,417
Diagnostic tests conducted	47,014,581
Doses of vaccine injected	140,734,825

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

20,000 residential units to be constructed for the deprived

The Welfare Organization and the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to construct 20,000 housing units for the financially struggling families, Mehr reported.

Alireza Tabesh, the Foundation's head, and Vahid Qobadi Dana, the Organization's head, inked the MOU during a meeting held in Tehran on Monday.

As per the agreement, 20,000 housing units will be provided to breadwinners with disabilities, breadwinner women, and the ex-addicts under the Organization's coverage residing in villages with a population of less than 25,000, Qobadi Dana explained.

احداث ۲۰ هزار واحد مسکونی برای محرومان

به گزارش خبرگزاری مهر تفاهم نامه مشترک برای احداث ۲۰ هزار واحد مسکونی برای محرومان بین بنیاد مسکن انقلاب اسلامی و سازمان بهزیستی کشور منعقد شد.

تفاهم نامه احداث ۲۰ هزار واحد مسکونی روستایی با حضور علیرضا تابش رئیس بنیاد مسکن انقلاب اسلامی و وحید قبادی دانا رئیس سازمان بهزیستی کشورروز دوشنبه به امضا رسید. قبادی دانا گفت: این تفاهم نامه به منظور ساخت ۲۰ هزار واحد مسکونی

برای معلولین سرپرست خانوار، زنان سرپرست خانوار، و بهبودیافتگان از بلای اعتیاد که در روستاها و شهرهایی با جمعیت کمتر از ۲۵ هزار نفر ساکن و تحت پوشش بهزیستی هستند؛ منعقد می شود.

EHRAN TIMES



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Like your body, your mind also gets tired so refresh it by wise sayings. Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:17 Evening: 18:15 Dawn: 5:14 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



Painting * Paintings by Bahman Mohammadi are currently on view in an

exhibition at Dastan Basement Gallery. The exhibit will be running until March 11 at the gallery located at 6 Bidar St., off Fereshteh St.



Sunrise: 7:37 (tomorrow)

Negar Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Fereidun Omidi. Entitled "The Now-less Orchard", the exhibition will be running

until March 12 at the gallery located at 33 Delaram Alley, East Roshanai St. in the Qeitarieh neighborhood.



Shohreh Amirahmadi The exhibit titled "The Outsiders" will run until March 11 at the

gallery that can be found at 42 Khakzad Alley, Vali-e Asr Ave. near the Parkway Intersection.

* Ali Rustainfard is showcasing his latest collection of paintings in an exhibition at O Gallery.

The exhibition will run until March 14 at the galleries located at 18 Shahin St., Sanai St.



* Paintings by Mahmud Azadnia are currently being shown in an exhibition at Saless Gallery

The exhibit will be running until March 9 at the gallery that can be found at 148 Karim Khan Ave.

Sculpture/painting

* A group of artists including Saeideh Arian, Behdad Najafi, Pejman Mottaqian, Reza Alizadeh, Reza Barati and Akram Afzali are displaying their latest sculptures and paintings in an

Concert by National Orchestra to open Iranian cultural festival in Beirut

TEHRAN - An Iranian cultural festival will open with a concert by the National Orchestra on Monday at the Lebanese Association of Arts in Beirut.

Heading a cultural delegation, Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, will attend the performance, the ministry announced in a press release published on Thursday.

The culture ministry will organize the weeklong festival, named "Alfajr Cultural Days", in collaboration with the association, a Hezbollahrun center that is also known as Rissalat, the ministry.

A number of Lebanese musicians will also join the orchestra to perform a repertoire of Arabic songs.

Exhibitions of artworks, including paintings, photographs and cartoons, and handicrafts will also be held.

Groups of artists in different media will also participate in the festival to hold workshops and performances at several cultural



A poster for the Iranian festival "Alfajr Cultural Days".

centers across Beirut.

The festival will also screen several Iranian films, including director Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian's political thriller "Trace of Blood".

Groups of Iranian literati and Lebanese cultural figures have also been invited to hold poetry nights and literary sessions during the festival. Esmaeili is scheduled to hold

meetings with his Lebanese

l ebanon.

counterpart, Abbas Mortada, to discuss the expansion of cultural relations between the two countries. There has been a close cultural relationship between Iran and

Hussein al-Ajami, an advisor at the Lebanese Ministry of Culture, visited Iran during September 2020 to attend a ceremony Iran

organized for the release of the music video "Restless for Balgis" at Tehran's Rudaki Hall.

The music video was recorded by Iran's National Orchestra in sympathy with Lebanon on the disastrous blast in Beirut on 4 August 2020.

The National Orchestra under the baton of Lebanese maestro Andre AlHaj along with prominent vocalist Hamidreza Nurbakhsh performed the piece composed by Fardin Khalatbari with lyrics from Ahura Iman.

"There has been a close relationship between Iran and Lebanon, and this helps implement this cultural project," Rudaki Foundation Managing Director Mehdi Afzali said during the ceremony.

In a short speech, Al-Ajami praised the collaboration between Iranian and Lebanese musicians in the project "Restless for Balqis" and noted, "We shout out that Beirut neither burns nor sinks; Beirut stands and conveys the message of peace and friendship to the entire world."

Images from Iran shortlisted for Sony World Photography Awards 2022

TEHRAN - Collections by three Iranian photographers have been shortlisted for the Sony World Photography Awards 2022.

"The Earth Belongings" by Majid Hojjati, "Painful Death of Birds" by Mehdi Mohebbipur and "Minimalism" by Sara Goli were selected in different categories of the leading free photography competition.

In his statement for "The Earth Belongings", shortlisted in the Landscape category, Hojjati wrote, "Life has meaning in human beliefs with its symbols. Mountains, forests, plains, free and beautiful creatures, and clear blue skies are all creations that will come to mind when we hear the word 'life'. Where it is free from the fence of man, and there is no trace of human presence in it, it is 'nature'. Where humans stepped in without understanding and respecting the spirit of nature, they endangered the existence of other beings. And then from this soil, nothing but a lifeless body will remain."

"The mountains will forget the flight of the eagles, and the noble howls of the horses will not be heard in the plains; and even the lion, that king of the forest, will be only a name in the books."

"These elements belong to the planet and are inseparable from it, without them what is left is a cold, lost and distorted image that no longer resembles anything. Maybe it's time to weigh what we have taken from nature and what we have given it and measure what we have done with the universe."

"Painful Death of Birds" has been selected for the Environment section. It features a set of efforts by environmental forces to collect and bury a large number of migratory birds, which died in a mysterious way in Iran's Miankaleh Wetland over the past few years.

All photos in the collection "Minimalism", shortlisted in the Portfolio category, have been taken in Tehran during 2021.

"I have tried to present this photography style by using and taking photos of shadows, lines, light and negative space - creatively using fine art skills to change the space to fit my vision," Goli said.

The images were selected for 10 categories from over 156,000 submissions and three finalists in each category will be competing in the competition.



A photo from Mehdi Mohebbipur's series "Painful Death of Birds"

Winners for all sections will be announced on April 12, and a selection of images by finalists and shortlisted photographers will be showcased in an exhibition at London's Somerset House from the next day until May 2.

The Photographer of the Year, who is selected from the finalists in the professional competition, will also be awarded a prize of \$25,000.

"Fish", "The Recess" receive nominations at Watersprite Student Film Festival

TEHRAN – Iranian movies "Fish" and "The Recess" have received nominations in different categories of the Watersprite Student Film Festival.

"Fish" directed by Parisa Jafari is competing for best animation award at the UK's largest international student film

"The Recess" by Navid Ńikkhah-Azad.

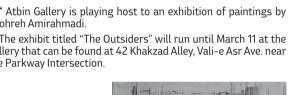
The short drama has been screened at numerous intentional events and won several awards.

It won the award for best dramatic short film at the 15th San Francisco Frozen Film Festival in July. In addition, the film's star Mojan Kordi won the award for the best performance at the 33rd















exhibition at Behruz Gallery.

The exhibit titled "Behind the Colors" will run until March 11 at the gallery located at 46, Abdoh St. off Vali-e Asr Ave. near Fatemi St.



Calligraphy

Calligraphy works by Mehdi Farimani are on view in a posthumous exhibition at Shokuh Gallery.

The exhibit will continue until March 7 at the gallery located at 19 Amir Nuri Alley, North Salimi St. off Andarzgu Blvd.

Glassware

* Golestan Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of glassware by Maryam Zandi.

The exhibition will be running until March 9 at the gallery that can be found at 34 Kamasai St. in the Darus neighborhood.



Ehsan Gallery

An exhibition of artworks in different media by Maryam

Fakhimi, Shima Ameri, Sepideh Alemi, Bahareh Nazari, Rodina

Sistani, Shahla Alizadeh and several other artists is underway at

The exhibit will run until March 2 at the gallery located at No.

22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.

off Vali-e Asr Ave.

* Artworks in different media by a group of artists, including Payam Yasini, Mina Katebi, Farzaneh Qoreishi, Nahid Zameni, Marjan Saqatchi and Ali Jahanshahi, are on display in an exhibition at Zhinus Gallery.

Multimedia

The exhibit will continue until March 1 at the gallery, which can be found at 21 Fatemi St.,



festival, which will take place ir Cambridge from March 4 to 6.

A co-production of the Tehran University of Art and Documentary and Experimental Film Center, "Fish" is about a man who decides to allay his fear.

The film was screened in the student film category of the 21st International Film Schools Festival (Festival Internacional de Escuelas de Cine - FIEC) in Uruguay and won a special mention.



The jury called the movie "a short that manages to connect through the senses, whose animation uses its impurities and freedoms to generate a raw and overwhelming experience."

Directed by Navid Nikkhah-Azad, "The Recess" has been nominated for the Wychwood Media Social Impact Award.

The movie follows Sahar. a 17-year-old student who is determined to skip high school during recess to go to the football stadium to watch a football match between Esteghlal F.C. vs. Al-Ain as part of the AFC Champions League in violation of the national ban on women entering football stadiums in Iran.

Living Skies Student Film Festival in Canada in March.

The festival is run by students at Cambridge University and Anglia Ruskin University and chaired by producer and former chair of BAFTA, Hilary Bevan Jones.

Since 2009, Watersprite has attracted the highest-quality emerging student film talent from over 100 countries in drama, animation and documentary.

Sadi: works and life

Part 9

Critical editions: The first critical edition was produced by Abd al-Azim Qarib in 1931, followed by Mohammad-Ali Forughi's Kolliyat (1937), which has for many years remained the basis for citation of the text.

Rustam M. Alieva used manuscripts in the Soviet Union to prepare his edition and translation (1959). In the 1960s a handful of new critical texts set about collating and correcting the above, including editions by Said Nafisi (1962), Mohammad-Javad Mashkur (1965), Khalil Khatib Rahbar (1966), and Bahaeddin Khorramshahi (1977).

The best critical edition of the work is that of Gholamhossein Yusofi, based upon seventeen manuscripts plus the reliable printed editions.

It includes extensive notes, indices, and bibliography. Movahhed provides a comparison of this with Forughi's text, both based on the same manuscript copy.

Yusofi's editorial decisions have not pleased all critics, and at least one edition has attempted to incorporate and improve upon its results.

Bustan

Bustan, in early sources referred to as Sadinama, a moralistic and anecdotal verse work consisting of some 4,100 masnavi couplets by Sadi, completed in 1257.

The date is given by Sadi himself in his preamble, and from some indications in two verses it may be surmised that the work was in fact completed between October 13 and December 20 and perhaps more precisely on

November 21 of that year.

Bustan, though often rendered as "Garden of Fragrance" or "Pleasure Garden," really has a more concrete meaning, such as "Fragrant Herb Garden" (on the meaning of the title, cf. S. Naficy, "Bustan").

The Bustan is the best-known poem of its general kind in Persian literature and is in many ways unique.

As is indicated in the lengthy (and routinely subdivided) preamble, the work is dedicated to Sadi's patron at the time, the Salghurid atabak of Fars, Abu Bakr ibn Sad ibn Zangi (r. 1226-60), but his son Sa'd and more particularly his grandson Mohammad ibn Sa'd are also praised.

> Source: Encyclopedia Iranica To be continued