

TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 50,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 43rd year | No. 14169 | Sunday | February 27, 2022 | Esfand 8, 1400 | Rajab 25, 1443

Ukraine War Highlights Split Between U.S. and West Asia Allies

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Report

Iran's red lines shall not be crossed in Vienna

TEHRAN — As the Vienna talks reach a critical stage, the Western negotiators are trying to portray an unrealistic atmosphere of the talks.

However, it should be noted that what is happening in the negotiation rooms are a whole lot different from the Western media narratives.

As Iranian officials have repeatedly stated, Iran's red lines in the ongoing talks to remove the sanctions imposed on Iran are crystal clear, and Tehran refuses to back down from its demands. But the Westerners seem reluctant to consider this obvious fact.

What the E3 (France, UK, and Germany) and their mainstream media refuse to narrate is that Iran has shown the required flexibility throughout ten months of intensive negotiations. Yet, this flexibility has not been portrayed from their side in response.

Negotiation is a process of give and take, and the European troika must know that the era of bullying is over. They cannot have their way at any cost, as Iran seeks to reach an agreement that will preserve the rights of its citizens.

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian stated on Tuesday that under no circumstances will the negotiators cross Iran's red lines.

The foreign minister added, "At the same time, we consider the necessity of any negotiation to be useful and that there should be conceivable benefits for the great nation of Iran in the negotiations." ► Page 2

\$185m allotted to provide housing for the deprived

TEHRAN – A total of 50 trillion rials (nearly \$185 million) has been proposed to provide housing for the deprived in the budget bill for the next [Iranian calendar] year (starting March 21), member of the Majlis (Iranian Parliament) has said.

The amount of 400 trillion rials (nearly \$1.5 billion) from the oil revenues has been predicted for the implementation of the "housing plan", IRNA quoted Rahim Zareh as saying on Saturday.

The construction of 90,000 housing units has been entrusted to the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation under the "housing plan", he added.

President Ebrahim Raisi submitted the administration's draft of the national budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year 1401, to the Majlis on December 12. The proposed budget amounted to about 36.31 quadrillion rials (about \$123 billion).

Supplying basic goods, treatment, and medical equipment; securing livelihood; supporting production and employment; promoting and supporting non-oil exports and knowledge-based companies are the focal points of the bill.

The Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation has constructed 6,576 housing units and delivered them to financially-struggling rural residents over the first six months of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21-September 23, 2021).

The Foundation also plans to build 360,000 housing units over the next four years.

The project will start next year and 90,000 houses will be built for the deprived annually, 60,000 of which will be built in cities and 30,000 in villages.

U.S. prepares for Canada style protests



The United States is set to deploy hundreds of National Guard troops to Washington ahead of the arrival of copycat trucker convoys inspired by similar anti-government protests in neighboring Canada.

According to the Pentagon, Defense Sec-

retary Lloyd Austin has approved a request from the District of Columbia and the U.S. Capitol Police for the deployment of at least 700 National Guard troops.

A statement said that some 50 "large tactical vehicles" will also be stationed 24 hours

a day.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy is also deploying National Guard troops to Washington ahead of the anticipated trucker convoys and protests. ► Page 5

Foreign investment in industry, mining, trade sectors up nearly 136%

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade has approved 129 foreign investment projects valued at about \$3.485 billion in the first 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021-January 20, 2022), which indicates a 135.9 percent rise compared to the same period of time in the past year.

The data released by the ministry show that 104 foreign investment projects valued at about \$1.477 billion had been approved in the first 10 months of the previous year.

As reported, the number of the investment projects approved in the mentioned 10 months has also increased by 24 percent in

comparison to the figure for the last year's same period.

Approved foreign investment includes all applications, including investment to create new projects, purchase of shares of existing companies, as well as foreign investment in the form of contractual arrangements. ► Page 4

Iran's men's compound win gold at World Archery Para Championships

TEHRAN – Iran's men's compound team claimed a gold medal at the 2022 World Archery Para Championships. In the compound open final, Iran's Ramezan Biabani and Hadi Nouri defeated Australia 145-143 to become this year's champion whilst Slovakia beat France 150-141 to take bronze.

The women's event saw Turkey keep their composure to win 150-149 against Russian Archery Federation. After being tied 148-148 at the end of the match, Iran's Maryam Yavarpour and Farzaneh Asgari succeeded 20-19 in a shoot-off against Britain to secure the bronze medal.

Iran's men's recurve team had previously qualified for the final match. Gholamreza Rahimi and Asghar Zarei Nejad defeated Turkey 5-3 in the semifinals and will face Britain in the final match on Sunday.

A total of 223 archers from 40 nations compete in the championships in the United Arab Emirates.

The event started on Feb. 22 in Dubai, and will finish on Feb. 27.



Iran win Takhti Greco-Roman Cup

TEHRAN – Iran claimed the title of the 42nd edition of the Takhti Greco-Roman Cup held in Ahvaz, Iran. The Iranian team finished in first place with 250 points.

Armenia and Tunisia came second and third with 65 and six points, respectively.

The competition was held from Feb. 23 to 25. The Takhti Cup competition served as qualification for the 2022 Asian Championships in Mongolia, 2022 Asian Games in China and 2022 World Wrestling Championships in Serbia.

We must properly introduce Iran to World Cup spectators: tourism minister

TEHRAN – Iran must take an immense opportunity to be provided by the upcoming Qatar World Cup to properly introduce the county to the international spectators of the major event, the tourism minister has said.

"A significant number of travelers, mostly young people, would arrive in Qatar to attend the World Cup... It provides an exceptional opportunity for us to properly introduce

tourist attractions of the country," Ezzatollah Zarghami said on Thursday.

"Over the past months, we have prepared some plans to arrack attendees to the upcoming 2022 FIFA World Cup soccer championship."

"Most importantly, our [southern] islands and free zones [in the Persian Gulf] are prepared to host foreign spectators since they

are appealing and wallet-friendly destinations," Zarghami said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the minister referred to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's recent visit to Doha, saying "Following president's visit to Qatar, we decided to send a full delegation to the neighboring country in order to activate all capacities proposed by the Qatari government." ► Page 6

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Interview

Russia launched special operation in Ukraine to denazify it: analyst

By Ramin Etesam

TEHRAN – A geopolitical analyst says that Moscow launched military operation again Ukraine to denazify it, demilitarize it, and ensure that the country remains neutral.

"Russia launched its special operation in Ukraine in order to denazify it, demilitarize it, and ensure that the country remains neutral," Andrew Korybko tells the Tehran Times.

"President Putin also revealed that NATO had secretly established military infrastructure in Ukraine from which it was plotting to eventually attack his country," Korybko argues.

Russian intelligence claims that the U.S. has clandestinely deployed strike weapons, including hypersonic missiles, to the region and in particular to Ukraine under the cover of the so-called "anti-missile systems".

"Moscow also destroyed NATO's secret military infrastructure there as well. The whole point is to ensure the integrity of Russia's nuclear second-strike capabilities in order to preserve global strategic stability," Korybko notes.

Russia has launched a military operation in Ukraine by land, air and sea, the Europeans consider it the biggest attack in Europe since World War II and confirmation of the worst fears of the West.

The attacks began on Thursday after Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a televised 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.

Following is the text of the interview:

How do you see the latest developments in Ukraine?

Russia was compelled to force the U.S.-backed post-coup fascist ► Page 5

Rafat Hashempur, voice of Scarlett O'Hara in "Gone with the Wind", dies at 90

TEHRAN – Iranian voiced actor Rafat Hashempur died from complications related to old age in her home in Karaj on Friday at 90.

She was best known for her work in the romance drama on the American civil war, "Gone with the Wind", as Scarlett O'Hara played by Vivien Leigh.

In an Instagram post, Jalal Maqami, her husband and also a prominent voice actor, wrote, "To Him we shall surely return. Today, my wife, Lady Rafat Hashempur passed away."

"She was born in Ardebil, and people mostly remember her with her voice for Vivien Leigh who starred as Scarlett in "Gone with the Wind", he said. ► Page 8

Iran's red lines shall not be crossed in Vienna



From page 1 ► The message Iran has sent is loud and clear, but there is an ambiguity here, regarding the Westerners' reluctance to hear the clear message of Iran.

In this regard, Amir Abdollahian said on Tuesday, "We hope that the few sensitive and important issues remaining in the talks will be resolved in the coming days with the realism of the West. Let us believe that the results of the efforts made in the past 9 months be that all parties will adhere to their full obligations under the 2015 nuclear agreement."

The Qatari newspaper Al-Arabi Al-Jadeed reported on Tuesday that the most important remaining issues mostly center on the scope of sanctions relief and the way to lift the sanctions in addition to other issues pertaining to disagreements between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Citing sources familiar with the talks, the newspaper said the U.S. is still insisting on some sensitive sanctions that, if not lifted, would lessen Iran's benefits from any deal.

Nuclear chief says Iran plans to produce 10,000 megawatts of nuclear electricity

TEHRAN – Chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) has said the Islamic Republic has set the goal to produce 10,000 megawatts of nuclear electricity and this entails 40 to 50 billion dollars in investment, Tasnim reported on Saturday.

"Production of 10,000 megawatts of nuclear electricity is a great project which is on the agenda," Mohammad Eslami said.

"Fortunately, we have expert workforce in this field," he added.

Eslami also said if in the past nuclear physics was taught only in five universities in Iran but now it is taught at 20 universities and the youth are showing

The sanctions in question need political decisions by the Biden administration.

The U.S. is yet to make such decisions and therefore a deal remains unlikely in the foreseeable future. This comes at a time when heads of delegations are preparing for a break for consequential consultations in capitals. Before the current round of talks, Iran had made all the necessary political decisions to move ahead with the talks. Therefore, it's unlikely that the break would result in a change in Iran's decisions.

There is little doubt that the ball is in the E3 and the United States' court. Iran made a great political decision in May 2018, and that was remaining in the internationally recognized 2015 nuclear deal despite United States' illegal and unilateral withdrawal from the agreement.

The amount of strategic patience and resistance Iran showed was unbelievable, even to the West. Now it is the United States' turn to make a tough political decision.

great interest in nuclear physics.

In the calendar year 1399 (March 2020-2021) Iran had the capacity to produce 85,000 megawatts of electricity, a report on the website of the Energy Ministry says.

The AEOI chief went on to say that Iran enjoys a unique status in terms of science and technology.

"This is not a slogan and it is quite noticeable in nuclear, defense and medical fields," he remarked.

Eslami who served as transport and housing minister in the previous administration added that Iran intends to develop its research studies.

Iranian envoy in Kyiv: Iranian residents can safely leave Ukraine

TEHRAN— Iranian nationals have been given the opportunity to leave Ukraine, according to Iran's envoy in Kyiv.

On Saturday, Manouchehr Moradi wrote on his Twitter post that the embassy has aided the exit of Iranians from the country which has come under attack by Russia.

"Fortunately, with the efforts of the embassy and colleagues in the Foreign Ministry, as well as the cordial collaboration of honorable ambassadors in Warsaw, Budapest, and Bucharest, as well as the support of the Iranian foreign minister, the withdrawal of Iranian nationals from Ukraine is possible,"



Moradi said on his Twitter account.

The ambassador also expressed optimism that all Iranian nationals will be able to return home safely.

Foreign Ministry official: It's untrue that U.S. has set deadline for Iran to decide on Vienna talks soon

TEHRAN – A senior official at the Iranian Foreign Ministry has dismissed reports that the United States has set a deadline for Iran to take final decision on the Vienna talks.

The comment by the Foreign Ministry official followed after a report circulated in social media in which

it claimed that the U.S. has said Iran should decide on the Vienna talks either Saturday or Sunday, otherwise they will declare that the negotiations have failed.

"This report is principally incorrect," the diplomat said, asking people "not to pay attention to rumors."

Amir Abdollahian emphasizes safe exodus of Iranian residents in Ukraine

Iran FM hopes Ukraine conflict will be resolved through dialogue in call with Lavrov

TEHRAN— Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian continued his telephone consultations on Friday with foreign ministers of certain countries neighboring Ukraine.

In a telephone conversation with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, Amir Abdollahian said that the Iran is seriously working on the safe exit of its nationals from Ukraine.

"Providing the security and safety of the Iranian expatriates in Ukraine are our priority," the foreign minister said.

The top diplomat also touched on the developments in Ukraine and the presence of Iranian nationals in that country, and expressed the hope that the ongoing crisis will be settled through political talks.

For his part, the Russian foreign minister elaborated on Moscow's stance vis-a-vis the Ukraine crisis. Criticizing the Western countries' approach toward the Ukraine issue, Lavrov gave assurances to Amir Abdollahian that Russia will seriously take into consideration the safety of foreign nationals, including Iranians.

Amir Abdollahian consults with Slovak FM for visa-free entry of Iranians stranded in Ukraine

In follow-up to the Ukraine crisis, Amir Abdollahian also held talks with Slovak Foreign Minister Ivan Korcok about the situation of Iranians in Ukraine as well as issues of mutual concern.

Referring to the good relations between the two countries and their favorable cooperation in various fields, Amir Abdollahian said, "We are ready to expand ties between the two countries in all fields."

Regarding the escalation of the crisis in Ukraine, Amir Abdollahian said, "We hope that this crisis will be resolved politically and peacefully."

The top diplomat added that a group of Iranian citizens residing in Ukraine have applied to leave the country and called on the Slovak government to provide assistance to Iranian citizens so that they can leave Ukraine for Slovakia without a need for visa.

Amir Abdollahian said his country plans to airlift its citizens to Iran after entering countries neighbor to Ukraine, including Slovakia.

For his part, Slovakia's foreign minister expressed pleasure with the development of cooperation



between the two countries at various levels and fields, announcing the holding of the joint economic commission of the two countries in the near future, which was welcomed by Amir Abdollahian.

Korcok further welcomed the proposal of the Iranian foreign minister, saying Slovakia is ready to cooperate and assist Iranian citizens to leave Ukraine through the Slovak border visa free.

He stressed that Iranian nationals can enter Slovakia via Ukraine's border and then travel to Iran.

Ukraine war rages for third day

The escalating tensions between Russia and Ukraine raged for the third day as the capital Kyiv 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 the capital as Russia's military 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, the 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 Kyiv. At least eight people were wounded when a plane crashed into an apartment building and set it on fire. Dmytro Kuleba, Ukraine's foreign minister, said Kyiv has 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 to protect 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 that it agreed to stay neutral, and not keep 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 post-midnight 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 Kyiv 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 Friday, targeting 70% of the Russian financial industry and critical state-owned 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."

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.

Iranian army equips helicopters with night-vision gear, missiles

TEHRAN – Iran's Army Ground Force's airborne division has outfitted its fleet of helicopters with night-vision gear and potent missiles.

General Yousef Qorbani, Commander of the Army Ground Force's Airborne Division, said at a military ceremony in the northeastern city of Mashhad on Saturday that the copters at his disposal have been equipped with night-vision systems and missiles that have successfully hit targets kilometers away.

He also mentioned that local knowledge-based firms have helped the Army manufacture components of military equipment and modern weaponry.

The commander cautioned the country's ultra-regional adversaries that the Islamic Republic is closely monitoring all movements with modern equipment and is working hard to retain the country's deterrent strength.

According to the general, Iranian military troops have guaranteed security and stability along the country's borders.

The Airborne Division of the Ground Force initiated a program in April 2018 to upgrade all helicopters with night-vision cameras to improve aircraft capabilities during night missions.

The Iranian Army is believed to have the most powerful helicopter fleet in the West Asia.

Navy begins escort operations in Red Sea

Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani has said a flotilla of Iranian warships is escorting the country's commercial vessels in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

The Dena destroyer, Bandar Abbas logistic-combat warship, and Tunb auxiliary warship compose the Navy's 80th flotilla, according to the commander.

He stated that military warships are now conducting operations in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, and that the navy forces are escorting Iranian commercial vessels including oil tankers in those locations.

A handful of Navy cadets are also trained aboard the three military ships, according to Rear Admiral Irani.

During its international mission, the flotilla may call at a number of friendly and adjacent countries, according to him.

Since November 2008, the Iranian Navy has been conducting patrols in the Gulf of Aden to protect merchant containers and oil tankers owned or leased by Iran or other countries, in accordance with international efforts to combat piracy.

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corp (IRGC) Navy said on February 18 that security in the Persian Gulf is owed to Iran's intelligence superiority, highlighting preparation for defending the territorial waters

and the country's security interests.

Admiral Alireza Tangsiri made the remarks while visiting IREG naval units in the northern Persian Gulf region to closely monitor combat readiness and capability of the naval forces.

"With full monitoring and intelligence superiority on the situation in the northern Persian Gulf region, stable and desirable security has been established in this region," Tangsiri remarked.

The admiral was also informed by the commanders about the combat capability of the operational units.

Later the commander said, "The purpose of continuing these visits and observing the situation of the units stationed in the northern region of the Persian Gulf, is to check the latest status of the units' combat readiness and the sea fighters in the heart of the third IREG naval area."

The admiral added field studies show a spirit of religious fervor, courage and bravery by his forces and the full readiness of operational systems and equipment in all actual combat situations.

On January 21, Iran, Russia, and China held naval drills in northern parts of the Indian Ocean.

The exercise, dubbed "naval security belt combined war game 2022", covered an area of 17,000 square kilometers.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

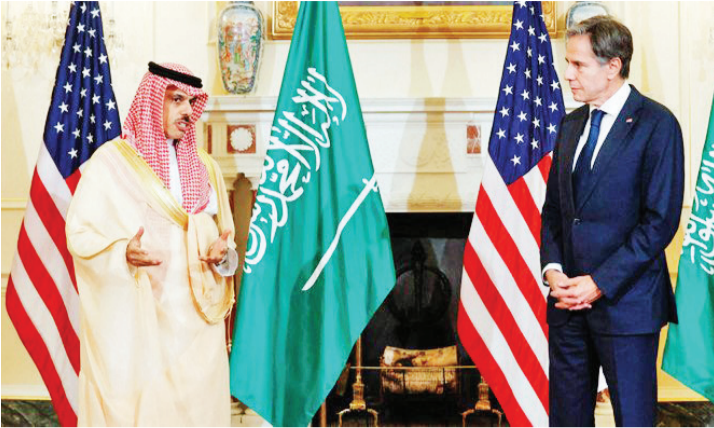
Ukraine war highlights split between U.S. and West Asia allies

TEHRAN – In less than 48 hours, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken phoned his Emirati counterpart twice to talk about the situation in Ukraine.

The Foreign Ministry of the United Arab Emirates said the top diplomats of the two countries “took stock of the latest regional and global developments and exchanged views on them” – a diplomatic reference to the war in Ukraine.

The second call came after the UAE abstained from voting in favor of a U.S.-backed resolution on the war in Ukraine at the United Nations Security Council. It also came after UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan discussed with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov the “strategic partnership” between Abu Dhabi and Moscow.

The UAE has surprisingly refrained from backing the U.S. in its quest at the UN Security Council to call out Russia for its military operation in Ukraine. The UAE, a U.S. ally in the Persian Gulf region, abstained from voting in favor of a resolution presented and drafted by the U.S. and a number of its allies, choosing instead to keep a safe distance from heated Western criticism against Russia for its military campaign in neighboring Ukraine. The resolution earned eleven affirmative votes while China, India, and the UAE abstained. As expected, Russia



vetoed the resolution of which it was the target.

The UAE move raised eyebrows in the region and beyond. Because Abu Dhabi and Washington have long sought to portray their relationship as “strategic.”

The UAE even refrained from openly condemning Russia's military operation in Ukraine. It “called for immediate de-escalation and the cessation of hostilities.”

Lana Nusseibeh, the UAE ambassador to the UN, underscored the UAE's readiness to work with members of the Security Council to achieve de-escalation and the cessation of hostilities, according to the UAE foreign ministry.

“The result of this vote today was a forgone conclusion, but the

avenues for dialogue must remain open more urgently than ever before, and we must pursue them together,” she said.

To rub even more salt into the wound of the unraveling partnership between Abu Dhabi and Washington, the UAE stressed the depth of its strategic partnership with Russia coming under growing diplomatic attacks from the West over Ukraine.

In their phone call, which took place on the eve of Russia's operation in Ukraine, Sheikh Abdullah and Lavrov discussed “the friendship relations and strategic partnership” between Moscow and Abu Dhabi. In the call, “Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed stressed the depth of friendship between the UAE and Russia, and the two countries’ leadership, and

highlighted the keenness to enhance the prospects of UAE-Russian cooperation across various fields for the higher good of their peoples,” according to the UAE foreign ministry.

Relations between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia are no better. Saudi Arabia has refrained from taking a stance in favor of the U.S. on Ukraine as well. So far, Saudi Arabia has even stopped short of issuing a separate statement on the situation in Ukraine. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman spoke with the Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister Waleed El Khereiji about Ukraine. While the U.S. readout of the call stuck a strong anti-Russian note, the Saudi foreign ministry simply chose not to bother issuing a statement.

Furthermore, the Saudi Arabia reportedly turned down a U.S. request to pump more oil so as to bring prices down.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE along with other U.S. allies in the region seem to be moving away from Washington out of an assessment that the U.S. is no longer the kind of strategic partner they can rely on in times of difficulty. They have long been complaining that the U.S. is no longer the same as it used to be. And the war in Ukraine was another reminder that the schism between Washington and its West Asia allies is growing wider by the day.

Presence of foreign troops in Syria led to rise of terrorism: ambassador

TEHRAN – Iranian Ambassador to the United Nations Majid Takh Ravanchi has said that the illegal presence of foreign forces in Syria has created conditions for the activities of terrorist groups.

He stressed that the government and the territorial integrity of Syria cannot be weakened under the pretext of fighting terrorism.

Takht Ravanchi made the remarks on Friday during a UN Security Council meeting to discuss political and humanitarian situation in Syria.

Referring to the repeated violations of the sovereignty of Syria by Israel, he said, “The recent attacks carried out by Israel against Syria, which affected civilians and the non-military infrastructure of this country, are a violation of international human rights laws.”

He called on the Security Council to hold Israel accountable for these aggressive and evil acts and the threat to use force against the countries of the region, which endangers peace and security.

The top diplomat pointed out that the Syrian

people face many challenges, and confronting them requires unrelenting efforts in various fields. He added that there is nothing more important and immediate than ending the unilateral coercive measures that harmed the Syrian people, as they robbed their basic human rights, including the right to medicine, health, food, water, electricity and communications.

Most of the civilian infrastructure in Syria has been destroyed, the diplomat said, according to the Al Alam website.

“The Security Council should work more seriously in order to ensure the full, balanced and effective implementation of Security Council Resolution 2585, especially the quick-return projects and the abolition of the unilateral embargo.”

Takht Ravanchi stated, “The sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria is still significantly violated in light of the presence of foreign forces, including the United States. We condemn the theft of natural resources of the Syrian people in the areas under the control of foreign forces, especially oil and agricultural crops. And we officially

recognize the legitimate right of the Syrian government to confront these criminal acts.”

The ambassador pointed to the importance of the Astana process in helping to solve the Syrian crisis, saying, “This mechanism will continue its efforts to end the crisis and reduce the suffering of the Syrian people. In support of these efforts, the foreign ministers of the guarantor states of the Astana Process will meet in Antalya (Turkey) on March 10.”

He stated, “The movement of terrorist groups, including ISIS, in the Syrian territories under the control of illegal foreign forces, as well as their transfer to other countries, endangers regional and international peace and security.”

The Iranian ambassador stressed that the fight against terrorism cannot be used as a pretext to weaken the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria

Takht Ravanchi said, “Iran will continue to support Syria's efforts to confront terrorist threats and preserve the unity and sovereignty of its territories.”

Iran embassy in Warsaw announces how Iranians trapped in Ukraine could return home

TEHRAN – The embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Warsaw has announced how Iranian nationals residing in Ukraine can return home via Poland's territory.

The embassy of Iran in Warsaw said it took the initiative to form a committee to support the Iranian nationals on the first day of the crisis and the declaration of a state of emergency in Ukraine.

The embassy noted that according to the announcement of the Polish Ministry of the Interior, there are 8 border points to enter Poland for Ukrainian nationals and others. It said foreign nationals do not need entry visas.

It is enough just to hold a notarized passport and legal residence in Ukraine and they can stay in Poland for a period of 15 days, the ministry added.

The Iranian embassy said the Polish ministry stated that there is no need for a person entering Poland to receive anti-Corona vaccine or the PCR vaccination certificate, and that foreign nationals can come in their cars.

The embassy indicated that coordination is underway with the Polish side to obtain the necessary permission to organize direct flights to transport Iranian nationals residing in Ukraine from Warsaw to Tehran.

Iran's ambassador to Ukraine paid a visit on Thursday night to the shelter Iranian students in the country are taking refuge in as arrangements were being made to transfer them home.

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 footage and videos on social media platforms voicing concerns about their safety in Ukraine.

Also, the Iranian embassy in Kyiv announced that it continues to provide services to compatriots to save them from the current situation and is ready to respond to and address their requests.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, answering journalists' questions about the ministry's measures to handle the affairs of the Iranian expatriates in Ukraine amid the heightening of tensions, said, “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 Kyiv have taken extensive and various measures in this regard.”

He added, “Given the precise

predictions made at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and since pertinent organizations and institutions had been notified of the developments that we are today witnessing as the most likely scenario, a crisis headquarters was swiftly established at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and efforts were made so as to establish the highest coordination between the staff and in line with an objective of better managing the situation and, if necessary, facilitate the evacuation of Iranian nationals and university students.”

The spokesman said, “Dr. Amir Abdollahian, the minister of foreign affairs, held conversations with the foreign ministers of both countries. 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.”

Khatibzadeh stressed, “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.”

He noted, “Furthermore, our country's embassy in Kyiv 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 via telephone calls and in person. 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.”

IRAN IN FOCUS

FEBRUARY 27, 2022

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Ex-Iran cyclist Jasemzadeh passes away

TEHRAN – Former Iran cyclist Jasem Jasemzadeh passed away at the age of 88 on Saturday.

He was Iran's first cyclist at the 1951 Asian Games in New Delhi, India.

Tehran Times extends deepest sympathy to Jasemzadeh's family, loved ones, and friends over his demise.

Ertugrul Saglam takes charge of Tractor

TEHRAN – Ertugrul Saglam has been named as new head coach of Tractor football team.

The 52-year-old coach replaced Zvonimir Soldo at the Tabriz based football club.

Tractor parted ways with the Croatian coach on Friday following the poor results in Iran Professional League.

Saglam was most recently head coach of Samsunspor.

It's for the second stint the Turkish coach works at Tractor. He led the Iranian top-flight team in 2018.

Tractor sit 13th in the table, four points above the relegation zone.

Navidkia steps down as Sepahan coach

TEHRAN – Moharram Navidkia stepped down from his role as head coach of Sepahan football team.

The 40-year-old coach was appointed Sepahan coach in September 2020 as Amir Ghalenoei's replacement but failed to turn around the team's fortunes.

Sepahan finished in second place last season and sit third in the current season, 13 points adrift of leaders Esteghlal.

The Iranian club will have to represent the country in the 2022 AFC Champion League, where they have been drawn with Al Duhail from Qatar, Pakhtakor of Uzbekistan and the winners of the playoff between Al Taawon from Saudi Arabia and Syrians Al Jaish in Group D.

Former Persepolis coaches Branko Ivankovic and Ali Daei are nominated to replace Navidkia.

Iran to compete at 2022 IIHF World Championship Division IV

TEHRAN – Iran national ice hockey team will take part at the 2022 IIHF World Championship Division IV.

The tournament will be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from March 3 to 9.

Iran will start the five-team tournament with a match against Singapore on March 4. The Persians are scheduled to face Kyrgyzstan on March 6.

Iran will also play Kuwait and Malaysia on March 7 and 9 respectively.

After the tournament was cancelled the last two years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all teams stayed put in their divisions.

2022 IIHF World Championship Division IV will be an international ice hockey tournament run by the International Ice Hockey Federation.

Alireza Jahanbakhsh happy to join Feyenoord

TEHRAN – Iran international winger Alireza Jahanbakhsh says that he feels happy being part of Feyenoord football club.

Jahanbakhsh was brought to De Kuip in July 2021. In an interview with ESPN, the player said he feels really good to be part of the Eredivisie team.

“When I played at NEC and AZ I didn't go to Rotterdam very often, but since I've been here I feel really good. It's a really nice club and city, especially the stadium.” He said.

Jahanbakhsh was brought to Feyenoord by Arne Slot. The coach was fired from AZ in December 2020. Soon after, the head coach of Feyenoord started regular contact with Jahanbakhsh.

“When Arne called me, it felt really good that a big club like Feyenoord was interested in me,” he added.

“I know that I can help the team. It is important to me that I have to keep going.

According to Jahanbakhsh, the things didn't always go great in the first months because he missed the preparation and because he does not adapt quickly to a new club.

“When I went to NEC, AZ and Brighton it was always difficult for me. It always takes a few months to feel at home,” Jahanbakhsh stated.

Sabre team 2nd at 2022 AJCFC

TEHRAN – Iran's sabre team finished in second place at the 2022 Asian Junior and Cadets Fencing Championship (2022 AJCFC).

Iran, headed by Mojtaba Abedini, started the campaign with a 45-27 win over India in the first stage.

Iran also emerged victorious over 45-39 in the semifinal.

The Persians lost to Uzbekistan 45-32 in the final match.

The competition started on February 24 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and will finish on February 27.

Iranians win medals at Asian Alpine Ski Championship

TEHRAN – Iranian skiers won two silver and bronze medals at the 30th Asian Alpine Ski Championships.

The championships kicked off on Feb. 23 at the Mzaar Ski Resort in Kfardebian.

Lebanese Manon Ouais ranked first to win the women's title, followed by Atefa Ahmadi from Iran and Alexandra Trotskaya from Kazakhstan.

Meanwhile, Zakhn Kuchin from Kazakhstan topped the men's category and Commillion Toktayev of Uzbekistan came in second ahead of Mohammad Sofishimshaki from Iran.

Ouais arrived from China a few days ago where she participated in the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games scoring 46th in the women's slalom and 54th in the Women's Giant Slalom out of 88 participants at the Olympic Games.

Lebanon had previously organized five times the skiing championship for Junior and Children, in 2000, 2008, 2009, 2016, and 2017 with Lebanon winning many medals.

Athletes arrive in Beijing for 2022 Winter Paralympics

TEHRAN – Five athletes arrived in Beijing to compete at the 2022 Winter Paralympic Games.

The games will be held in three competition zones of Beijing, Yanqing and Zhangjiakou between March 4 and 13, according to China Media Group (CMG).

CMG was invited to an alpine skiing resort in Alborz Province, Iran, to attend training sessions of the country's para-athletes.

“The 2022 Winter Olympics and Paralympics will help the friendship between the sports circles of the two countries grow stronger,” Eisa Saveh Shemshaki, president of Iran's Ski Association for Disabled, told CMG.

“Beijing is ready (to host athletes from all over the world)” Chang Hua, Chinese Ambassador to Iran, said. “We pay the same attention to both the Winter Olympics and Paralympics. Beijing has complete sets of barrier-free facilities on every front. I hope Iranian athletes can not only make their best for performance for good results, but also show their will power and gain more friendship.”

Foreign investment in industry, mining, trade sectors up nearly 136%



From page 1 ► The ministry had approved 74 foreign investment projects valued at about \$2.227 billion in the first half of the present year (March 21-September 22, 2021).

A total of 113 foreign investment projects valued at \$2.614 billion were approved in the country during the mentioned period, of which the share of the industry, mining, and trade sector was 65 percent and 85 percent in terms of number and value,

respectively.

Back in December 2021, Head of Iran's Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) Masoud Mirkazemi said the government has it on the agenda to remove the barriers in the way of attracting foreign investment.

Stressing the need for the attraction of domestic and foreign investment to achieve a targeted eight-percent economic growth, Mirkazemi said: "barriers to attracting foreign investment will be removed."

Speaking in a gathering of Iranian ambassadors to neighboring countries, the official said with the new changes applied to the budget structure, the duties of Iranian ambassadors in other countries have become heavier.

According to the official, economic growth of eight percent has been one of the goals of the Sixth National Development Plan (2016-2021) and also become the focus of the 13th government's major economic programs.

415 solar power plant units go operational across Iran

TEHRAN – Some 415 new solar power plant units with a total capacity of 2.4 megawatts (MW) have gone operational across Iran over the past two months, the spokesman of the country's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) announced.

According to Jafar Mohammadnejad Sigaroudi, so far, more than 6,674 such solar power stations have been put into operation in the country, IRIB reported.

Sigaroudi noted that the contribution of support organizations such as Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation and Basij Organization in this field has facilitated the development of the renewable industry in Iran.

As reported, the above-mentioned organizations are currently collaborating with SATBA to help deprived households in rural areas construct solar power plants and sell the generated electricity to the Energy Ministry in the form of 20-year guaranteed purchase



agreements with SATBA.

The capacity of Iran's renewable power plants currently exceeds 920 MW among which solar power plants have the biggest share of electricity production, followed by wind power plants

Renewables, including hydropower, account for about seven percent of the country's total energy generation, versus natural gas's 90 percent share.

According to SATBA's Head

signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) for cooperation in the construction of renewable power plants to generate 10,000 MW (10 gigawatts) of electricity across the country.

The MOUs were signed following the Energy Ministry's public call for the contribution of private companies in a project for developing renewable power plants in the country.

Speaking in the signing ceremony, Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian said: "When the private sector invests in this industry [the renewables], the government is obliged to return the equivalent of the investment plus its interests to the investor."

Mehrabian noted that the government has allocated over 30 trillion rials (about \$15.8 million) for the development of renewables in the budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year (begins on March 21), saying that it is an unprecedented budget in this area.

Issues related to exhibition industry discussed at TCCIMA meeting

TEHRAN – Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) hosted a meeting with Managing Director of Iran International Exhibitions Company (IIEC) Houman Razdar on Saturday in which issues and challenges related to the exhibition industry in Iran were discussed.

During the meeting, representatives of Tehran's private sector talked about the shortcomings and weaknesses of the country's exhibition industry and called for stronger participation of the private sector organizations in holding exhibitions and developing infrastructure in this area.

The attendees of the mentioned gathering raised some problems and challenges in this field including the low quality of services, the high cost of exhibiting, and the lack of serious private sector participation in the decision-making process for holding exhibitions.

In response to the mentioned concerns, Razdar said that a joint working group has been formed with the TCCIMA to study the



mentioned challenges and resolve them.

Elsewhere in the meeting, Head of Iran Export Confederation Mohammad Lahouti pointed to the importance of exhibitions in facilitating trade relations between countries and said: "Tehran International Exhibition is one of the most important and well-known exhibitions and its name and brand are recognized at the international level."

Noting that Iran's exhibition industry has faced ups and downs in recent years, Lahouti continued: "After the implementation of the

nuclear deal, a committee was established in the Tehran Chamber of Commerce to facilitate foreign investment in the country. One of the goals of this committee was the facilitation of holding specialized exhibitions and trade fairs."

Optimal use of exhibition capacity, increasing the effectiveness of exhibitions, using the income of exhibition companies for developing the infrastructure in this sector, using the capacity of government organizations to hold exhibitions, removing the monopoly and creating a database and also reducing the costs of holding exhibitions were some of the objectives pursued by the mentioned committee, the official said.

He offered the establishment of a strategic committee consisting of representatives of the TCCIMA and the chamber's Export Development Committee, as well as Iran Export Confederation, IIEC, and the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) to improve the condition of the exhibition industry.

'Fuel supply to various sectors carried out smoothly during winter'

TEHRAN – Head of National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company (NIOPDC) Keramat Veis-Karami has said his company has managed to supply the necessary fuel including gas and liquid fuel to various sectors during the cold season, Shana reported.

"With good planning and coordination among the subsidiaries of the Oil Ministry and with effective and coherent inter-agency cooperation, the winter fuel supply was carried out without any shortage and in the best possible way," Veis-Karami said.

According to the official, all the entities involved in the production and delivery of natural gas and liquefied fuels in the country, including National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC), NIOPDC, National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), as well as Oil Ministry's Planning and Management Department worked

in harmony to ensure smooth supply of fuel during the winter.

He also mentioned the constructive cooperation between the oil and energy ministries and with other relevant agencies, saying: "This coordination was done more coherently and better this year, and fortunately there was no particular problem in the operation of power plants and we did not have a report of blackouts."

"Hopefully we will not have any problems in this field in the remaining month of the year and the supply of fuel to the power plants will also continue uninterrupted," Veis-Karami added.

Referring to the continues storage of fuel for power plants, the official said: "Our storages are in a much better condition this year compared to the same period last year, and there is no shortage regarding stored volumes."

Manufacturing of refrigerators, freezers rises 9% in 10 months yr/yr

TEHRAN– Manufacturing of refrigerators and freezers in Iran has increased nine percent during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021-January 20, 2022), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the data released by Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry indicate.

As reported, 1.853 million refrigerators and freezers have been manufactured in the ten-month period of this year.

Home appliances manufacturing has increased 78 percent to stand at 15 million sets in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2021).

Rise in home appliances manufacturing and export has been also planned for the current year.

Manufacturing of home appliances in Iran has risen 9.7 percent during the first half of the present year.

Last year, the industry was able to achieve 78 percent growth despite the restrictions on the manufacturing sector, Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki has said, adding, "While foreign brands left Iran, manufacturers were able to achieve this leap by relying on domestic capacities."

Back in April 2021, the official had said that considering the Iranian home appliance industry's infrastructure and capacities, the country will be able to become an exporter of such products in the near future because most of the raw materials needed by the mentioned sector are produced

domestically.

Stating that the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry will definitely support domestic manufacturers and national brands, the official added: "Today we have the necessary manpower, knowledge, and infrastructure in the field, so there is no reason to look for foreign sources to meet the country's demands."

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has been following a new strategy for supporting domestic production to neutralize the impacts of the U.S. sanctions while reducing the reliance of the economy on oil revenues.

The home appliances sector has been one of the pioneers in this regard and like many other areas, the production of home appliances has witnessed a

significant rise in the past two years so that this industry's production capacity increased by 24 percent in the past Iranian year, and by 10 percent in its preceding year.

The secretary of the Association of Industries of Household Appliances of Iran has said, "We expected to produce about 12 million units, including small and large appliances in the previous year, however, the figure increased to about 15 million by the yearend, registering a 24 percent growth compared to the preceding year."

"We also had good growth in after-sales service, product quality improvement, indigenization and exports, so that last year \$345 million worth of home appliance products were exported," Abbas Hashemi added.

Pointing to the advantages of home appliance industry in Iran, the official said: "Production of home appliances in the country is an advantage considering cheap energy and workforce and the country's geographical situation", he noted.

"This industry should be more supported," he stressed.

Regarding the return of foreign brands to the country, Hashemi said: "we should prevent the imports of foreign finished products into the country in order to support domestic producers."

He further noted that foreign companies can invest in this industry and co-produce their products with local manufacturers.

Commodities worth over \$1b exported from Markazi province in 10 months

TEHRAN – As announced by a provincial official, commodities worth \$1.021 billion were exported from Markazi province, in the center of Iran, during the first 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021-January 20, 2022).

Hassan Mirzakhani, the deputy governor-general of the province for the economic affairs, put the value of commodities imported into the province at \$350 million during the mentioned period, and said the export has tripled the import.

As previously announced by the head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil exports rose 38 percent during the first 10 months of the current year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Alireza Moghadasi said Iran exported over 100 million tons of non-oil products worth \$38.763 billion in the mentioned period.

According to the official, the weight of exports in the mentioned period also grew by seven percent in comparison to the figure for the previous fiscal year's same 10 months.

He said major export destinations of the Iranian non-oil goods were China, Iraq, and Turkey during the said 10 months.

The IRICA head further announced that the Islamic Republic imported 33 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$41.473 billion in the mentioned period, with a 34-percent growth in value and a 17-percent rise in weight, year on year.

The United Arab Emirates was the top exporter to Iran in the said period, followed by China, Turkey, Germany, and Switzerland, he stated.

According to the official, out of the total non-oil goods imported into the country in the first 10 months of this year, 25 million tons worth \$15 billion were basic goods, which indicates an

increase of 26 percent in weight and 56 percent in value, year on year.

Moghadasi noted that currently about five million tons of commodities are stored at the country's customs for which the clearance procedures will be carried out soon.

"There are 160 customs active in the country, and this number is increasing with the creation of new free zones and economic areas," he added.

IRICA has previously announced that the value of Iran's non-oil trade stood at \$73 billion in the past Iranian calendar year.

IRICA former Head Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi had put the weight of non-oil trade at 146.4 million tons and said that the figure showed a 25-million-ton annual decline, which is the result of sanctions and coronavirus pandemic.

Iran's non-oil export was 112 million tons valued at \$34.5 billion, and that of import was 34.4 million tons worth \$38.5 billion in the past

year, the official added.

Among the country's non-oil export destinations, China was the first, with importing \$8.9 billion worth of products, Iraq was the second with importing \$7.3 billion, the United Arab Emirates the third with importing \$4.6 billion, Turkey the fourth with importing \$2.5 billion, and Afghanistan the fifth with importing \$2.2 billion, Mir-Ashrafi announced, and named gasoline, natural gas, polyethylene, propane, and pistachio as Iran's major exported products during the past year.

He further named Iran's top sources of non-oil imports in the said time, as China with exporting \$9.7 billion worth of products to the Islamic Republic, the UAE with \$9.6 billion, Turkey with \$4.3 billion, India with \$2.1 billion, and Germany with \$1.8 billion, respectively, and mentioned corn, cellphone, rice, oil meal, and oilseeds, wheat, and raw oil as the major imported items.

TEDPIX drops 5,000 points on Saturday



TEHRAN– TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 5,513 points to 1.282 million on Saturday.

As reported, over 5.257 billion securities worth 30.237 trillion rials (about \$116.2 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index lost 6,873 points and the second market's index dropped 2,338 points.

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

The Money and Capital Market Committee of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) hosted a meeting with Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Head Majid Eshqi on January 30 to discuss the capital markets' current issues and challenges.

The meeting was attended by the members of the mentioned committee as well as the representatives of some of the companies active in the stock market.

Russia launched special operation in Ukraine to denazify it: analyst

From page 1 ► authorities to peace after they continually violated the UNSC-endorsed Minsk Accords by initiating a third round of civil war hostilities in Donbas that Moscow described as genocide. The larger context in which this conflict is unfolding is the undeclared U.S.-provoked missile crisis in Europe.

This was prompted by NATO's eastward expansion, the U.S. deployment of "anti-missile systems" and strike weapons to Russia's borders, and Washington's withdrawal from arms control pacts such as the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, and the Open Skies Treaty.

All of these dangerously contributed to eroding Russia's nuclear second-strike capabilities and thus potentially putting the country in a perpetual position of nuclear blackmail vis-à-vis the U.S. President Putin also revealed that NATO had secretly established military infrastructure in Ukraine from which it was plotting to eventually attack his country. It was for these reasons



that Russia' launched its special operation in Ukraine in order to denazify it, demilitarize it, and ensure that the country remains neutral. Moscow also destroyed NATO's secret military infrastructure there as well. The whole point is to ensure the integrity of Russia's nuclear second-strike capabilities in order to preserve global strategic stability.

What would be the reaction of

Western powers to the Ukraine crisis? Why don't they resort to military reaction?

There is no "would be", but "is". The U.S.-led West imposed more anti-Russian sanctions and is dispatching more weapons to Ukraine. They're unlikely to directly intervene though since President Putin warned that Russia will decisively respond to anyone who interferes

with its special operation.

To what extent do you think Russia will go ahead with its military operation in Ukraine? Do you predict the collapse of the Ukrainian government?

Russia will advance however far it deems necessary to accomplish its military-strategic goals. The Ukrainian government will be unable to stop Moscow's military forces.

How could the recent escalation affect the global economy and energy supply?

The U.S.-led West's anti-Russian sanctions and Russia's reciprocal ones against them will have an impact on the global economy though it's unclear to what extent they'll affect energy supply, let alone for how long.

Do you think the Russia-West escalation will affect the Vienna talks?

No. These are two completely different issues that aren't related whatsoever at all. There's no connection.

The West adds fuel to Ukraine crisis

TEHRAN- The armed conflict between Russian and Ukrainian forces intensifies as the capital Kyiv is peppered with massive explosions and street fighting breaks out.

On Saturday, the streets of Ukraine's capital turned into a battleground, but President Volodymyr Zelensky assured people via video message that the country had "withstood and successfully repelled enemy attacks," and that Kyiv remained under Ukrainian authority.

For the third morning in a row, residents in Kyiv woke up to explosions and the sounds of conflict as the fight moves closer to the city center.

According to a new document issued by the White House late Friday, Joe Biden has directed Secretary of State Antony Blinken to release up to \$350 million in emergency help for Ukraine's security and defense.

This is the third money withdrawal; prior orders were for \$60 million and \$250 million, bringing the total over the last year to over a billion dollars.

The Ukrainian Interior Ministry has issued a warning to people in Kyiv that street fighting is taking place. In a Facebook post Saturday, the ministry said:

"Active fighting is taking place on the streets of our city. Please stay calm and be as careful as possible! If you're in the shelter, don't leave it now. If you are at home, do not go close to the windows, do not go to the balconies. Hide indoors, for example in the bathroom, and cover yourself with something that will prevent injury from bullet fragments. If you hear sirens, go immediately to the nearest shelter!"

A senior adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky stressed that Russian forces had tried to "bring the maximum amount of equipment into the city of Kyiv."

But, he said, "Currently, the situation in the suburbs and the surrounding area is under control."

Speaking on Ukrainian television, he said there were "separate sabotage and reconnaissance groups" in the city, but that police and territorial self-defense units "are actively working against them."

On Saturday morning, President Zelensky denied any reports of Ukraine laying down its arms on Twitter titled "Do not believe the fakes."

Early Saturday, a projectile struck a residential building near Kyiv's second airport, with images featuring a large impact some ten floors up.

The facade of building appeared totally blasted out and columns of smoke billowed high into the air.

According to Kyiv Mayor Vitaliy Klitschko, emergency personnel are on the site, but the extent of the injuries is unknown.

The Interior Ministry of Ukraine has released images of the apartment building in Kyiv that was destroyed early Saturday, showing emergency services assisting inhabitants in their evacuation.

"Today I will start with long-awaited words, which I wish to announce with pride," Zelensky said.

"Finally," he continued. "Ukraine is United ... This is our victory."

On Saturday, as violence in Kyiv grew more intense, a top Chinese ambassador backed the country's long-held position on national sovereignty, saying it "applies equally to the Ukraine issue."

"China firmly believes that the sovereignty & territorial integrity of all countries should be respected & protected and the purposes & principles of (the UN Charter) abided by in real earnest. This position of China is consistent & clear-cut, and applies equally to the Ukraine issue," wrote Liu Xiaoming, the Chinese government's special representative on Korean peninsula affairs.

Russia's defense ministry said Saturday it launched cruise missile strikes overnight against targets in Ukraine.

"During the night, the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation launched a strike with long-range precision weapons using air- and sea-launched cruise missiles against Ukrainian military infrastructure facilities," Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said in a video statement. "I emphasize once again that the fire is directed only on the objects of the military infrastructure of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, excluding damage to residential and social infrastructure."

In a tweet on Saturday, the Ukrainian president said it is now a "critical moment" to decide on his country's membership in the European Union.

"It is a crucial moment to close the long-standing discussion once and for all and decide on Ukraine's membership in the #EU. Discussed with @eucopresident further effective assistance and the heroic struggle of Ukrainians for their free future," a tweet on his verified Twitter page said.

On Friday, a day after Moscow launched attack on Ukraine, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov attempted to reassure the world about civilian losses.

"Nobody is going to attack the people of Ukraine," he said during a heated press conference, there were "no strikes on civilian infrastructure."

From 8 a.m., artillery impacts were heard in and around Kherson, Ukraine, which is located north of the Crimean peninsula.

By 11 a.m., the bridge, which connects Russian-controlled territories to Ukraine, was completely engulfed in smoke from nearby grass that had caught fire.

According to the Ukraine embassy in Britain's Twitter account, Zelensky has declined an invitation from the U.S. to evacuate the capital Kyiv.

Zelensky told the U.S.: "The fight is here; I need ammunition, not a ride."

"Ukrainians are proud of their President," the tweet adds.

In a video posted Saturday morning on Twitter, Zelensky said, "We are not putting down arms."

The UN's Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, Kelly Clements, said that up to 4 million people may attempt to enter borders as the Ukraine conflict continues.

With 850,000 people internally displaced and over 120,000 individuals fleeing Ukraine, Clements said people were forced to make "life or death decisions."

"We've had a humanitarian crisis in the country for the last eight years and it's just become a whole lot worse. In addition to those 850,000 internally displaced primarily in the east, we know that over 100,000 people are already on the move."

Dozens security checkpoints were set up around Lviv in western Ukraine on Saturday as the city's mayor confirmed the checkpoints in a statement.

"Checkpoints are being set up in Lviv and the region. They will be placed on all entrances and exits to the Lviv Territorial community for checking all people entering the territory," Andriy Sadovyi said, according to the statement.

"Checkpoints are placed in cooperation with police and territorial defense forces to ensure the safety of Lviv," the statement added.

Roskomnadzor, Russia's communications regulator, has warned ten local news outlets that access to their publications would be restricted unless they cease distributing "false information," such as allusions to the military action in Ukraine as an "attack, invasion, or declaration of war."

The watchdog objected to these sources in letters over what it called "fake information" they published concerning Russian military forces bombardment of Ukrainian cities and the deaths of civilians.

A Russian-flagged commercial ship was arrested by French authorities in the English Channel on Saturday, according to a representative for the French Channel Prefecture.

Vitali Klitschko, the mayor of Kyiv, has imposed a curfew from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. starting Saturday evening. "For more effective defense of the capital and the security of its inhabitants."

The curfew will continue until the morning of February 28.

"All civilians on the street during the curfew will be considered as members of the enemy's sabotage and reconnaissance groups."

"Please treat the situation with understanding and do not go outside."

Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has lashed out at Western sanctions imposed on Russia -- of which he is also a target -- saying they are a sign of "political impotence."

I believe it is obvious to intelligent people: sanctions are a myth, a threat, a figure of speech. I am fundamentally indifferent to these widely publicized restrictions of rights abroad," Medvedev said in a post on Russian social network VK on Saturday.

"The reason for the sanctions is this. It is political impotence arising from inability to change Russia's course. Also, a hope to make up for the shameful decisions like the cowardly flight from Afghanistan."

Flights from carriers or aircraft registered in Bulgaria, Poland, or the Czech Republic have been denied access to Russian airspace by the Russian Civil Aviation Authority.

"This decision was made in accordance with the norms of international law as a response to the ban on all civil flights of aircraft operated by Russian air carriers and/or registered in Russia to/from the territory of these states," the Russian Civil Aviation authority said in a statement on Saturday.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Saturday that the U.S. will provide \$350 million in fresh military aid to Ukraine.

UK PM Johnson has called for an end to Russia's involvement in SWIFT.

"We are calling for an end to Russian involvement in SWIFT," said a UK government update on Ukraine which Johnson tweeted Saturday.

According to a statement released by the UK Ministry of Defense on Saturday, Royal Navy fighters, British Army personnel, and Royal Air Force jets have been deployed in Eastern Europe to boost NATO's eastern front.

According to a Polish border guard, some 100,000 individuals have entered Poland from Ukraine since the conflict began on Thursday.

"Yesterday was a record day, Border Guard officers cleared over 47,000 people in the direction to Poland. We will help everyone, we will not leave anyone without help. Once again, all Polish services are working together," a tweet attributed to the guard's Commander-in-Chief read.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjart said Saturday in a statement that the country will not block any sanctions against Russia, including SWIFT.

As part of EU sanctions, Italy supports SWIFT sanctions on Russia.

According to a statement on Saturday, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has called for an "immediate de-escalation and the cessation of hostilities" in Ukraine.

U.S. prepares for Canada style protests

From page 1 ► An estimated 25 different convoys are planning to join forces and converge on the nation's capital, to replicate recent protests in Canada.

Murphy has announced that approximately 100 National Guard troops have been activated and will make their way to the capital.

"The National Guard is going to DC," Murphy said, "That was a request, 20 vehicles, and over 100 manpower."

Murphy claims the deployment isn't based on a political decision but a public safety request from the federal government.

"We don't let politics get in the middle of decisions on whether to accept requests like that, we did it during the Trump administration to protect monuments and we're doing it in this case, I assume so we don't see what happened in Ottawa happen in our nation's capital."

New Jersey National Guard troops were deployed to Washington during the 2020 George Floyd anti-racism protests, the guards were condemned for using heavy-handed tactics to crack down on the demonstrations.

In 2021, National Guard troops were again deployed to the capital during the January 6th insurrection at the U.S. Capitol Building.

Fencing has also been erected ahead of President Joe Biden's State of the Union address amid fears the demonstrations will be aiming to disrupt the speech.

U.S. Capitol Police say several trucker convoys are planning to converge on Washington around the time of Biden's address on Tuesday. Others may arrive a few days later.

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says she was "confident" in the security plans put in place to protect Washington around the time of Biden's State of the Union speech.

The trucker-led protests are expected to converge on the U.S. capital in the coming days in what experts say has become a fast-spreading movement in the Western world where the grievances against various domestic government policies are being voiced in new different tactics.

The convoys have been inspired by what began as truckers blocking routes and areas in Canada against covid restrictions but soon morphed into anti-government protests against multiple issues; topping the agenda was what the demonstrators say is the Canadian government's attempts to curb their freedom.

The protests in Canada and in particular the capital Ottawa saw the government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau trigger emergency powers to crack down on the demonstrations, a move that sparked widespread criticism in the country and lawsuits against the rare government measure.

Back in the United States Cynthia Miller-Idriss, director of American University's Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Lab says "What we're seeing is that people are using this as an excuse to just express a whole bunch of other grievances against the Biden administration or perceived threats on their freedom, this might be about mandates but not really about mandates in the long run."

One of the convoys, dubbed "the People's Convoy" has already raised about \$500,000 from online crowd-funding platforms to support the movement's efforts. It will cross the country from California.

"The People's Convoy" left from Southern California and plans to arrive in the "DC Beltway area" by March 5, according to the group's website. The route passes through Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

"A lot of people have asked why we're doing this -- what's your reason behind it. People want a defined, clear answer. They think it's one thing", organizer Brian Brase told the crowd.

He added "the truth is, it's about my children. It's about my future grandchildren. It's about our families. It's about our country. It's about letting our government know that you work for us."

Brase told the media wherever the convoy stops, it is "not going anywhere" until its demands - which include an end to mask mandates and vaccination requirements - are met. Organizers say they expect "thousands, perhaps tens of thousands", to join them.

The group traveling from California also



wants to "jumpstart the economy" and "re-open the U.S." it says.

A second group, from Scranton, Pennsylvania, said it aimed to shut down the Beltway, the main road that surrounds Washington. It's spokesperson Bob Bolus, told a local media station, it would be like "a giant boa constrictor... that basically squeezes you, chokes you and it swallows you. That's what we're going to do DC" he said.

He claims that his convoy has no intention of breaking laws, but warned this could happen if their demands regarding pandemic mandates and the cost of fuel are not met.

"They are not going to intimidate us and they are not going to threaten us. We're the power, not them" he noted.

Coleman, a trucker for 45 years, says he was pushing for the end to the emergency powers that U.S. politicians have used to approve covid pandemic-related restrictions on Americans.

Former President Donald Trump declared the state of emergency in America back in March 2020. Last week, Biden announced his intention to extend it beyond its current expiration date at the start of March this year.

As multiple convoys have been launched or plan to do so very soon, officials are preparing for major potential gridlock in the American capital as well as the Beltway, a 64-mile roadway through Virginia and Maryland that circles the District of Columbia.

As some convoys have already hit the streets, footage and images circulating in the media show supporters cheering on as several trucker caravans began moving.

In Michigan, supporters gathered on a bridge in Mundy Township to see off a trucker convoy headed to Washington.

Other images have surfaced showing supporters listening to speeches by organizers in different cities and states about the reasons for their movement. Some supporters can be seen donating cash in support of the protest.

While the convoys all have different starting points, departure dates, and routes; they do all have one thing in common and that is their destination: Washington D.C.

The websites organizing the American trucker convoys all make direct reference to their inspiration and solidarity with the Canadian movement.

What began in Canada appears to be the start of something bigger than just truckers gathering for weeks and halting traffic or border crossing in protest at vaccine mandates.

A statement on the "People's Convoy" website pays homage to "our brave and courageous neighbors to the north, our Canadian brothers and sisters who led the charge".

Speaking of the original Canadian demonstrations, Wesley Wark, a senior fellow at the Center for International Governance Innovation, a Canadian public policy group told American media outlets that "there is a worry, and it's been expressed in all kinds of ways, that this protest movement will become something much more significant and much more sustained... It was given terrific oxygen to spread its message".

Analysts argue the protesters, from across the political spectrum, saw much of the disruption that they caused as a tactical victory.

American-based social media platforms have proven to be the driving force behind the latest protest movement in Canada, the United States, and Europe.

Handicraft hubs in Kerman province gain national status



TEHRAN – Five Iranian cities situated in the southern Kerman province have been registered as national cities of handicrafts.

On Thursday, Shahr-e Babak was registered a national city of turquoise, Ravar named a national city of Persian rugs, and Qaleh-Ganj was registered as a national city of mat weaving, IRNA reported.

Chaired by Pouya Mahmoudian, the deputy minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism, the judging panel also registered the capital city of Kerman as a national city of handicrafts, and Rayen as the national city of traditional knife making, the report said.

Speaking at the voting session, Mahmoudian 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.”

Currently, 299 fields of handicrafts are practiced across the country, she said. “Iran is one of the top three countries in the world

in terms of production and diversity of handicrafts..”

Baloch embroidery, hand-woven kilim carpets, wicker works, pateh, and precious and semi-precious gemstones are among handicrafts being produced in Kerman province, which is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan 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.

We must properly introduce Iran to World Cup spectators: tourism minister

From page 1 ► Moreover, we have set an agenda for the operation of extra flights between the two countries, he added.

The minister said many people are interested to visit Iran for its historical attractions and ecotourism to name a few.

Iran football team became the 14th team to book their place in the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Moreover, the 'Persian Leopards' became the first Asian team to book their place in the major competition.

Furthermore, Zarghami's deputy for tourism, Ali-Asghar Shalbafian, has said the landmark event gives Iran a chance to dwindle the so-called anti-Iranian sentiments known as Iranophobia. “Qatar's World Cup offers a unique opportunity to introduce

destinations near the host country, and we should take advantage of this opportunity to confront Iranophobia.”

To make good use of this occasion, it is necessary to develop consensus among the relevant agencies, and if this does not occur, it will be detrimental to the country, Shalbafian explained.

The geographical position of Iran and its unique tourist attractions make it a potential destination for the World Cup spectators, the official added. “Therefore, proper policy-making and management in collaboration with the private sector can pave the way for the widespread use of this event.”

Moreover, the head of the Association of Kish Hoteliers has announced the island is ready to



host Qatar World Cup spectators as well as participating teams. “The proximity of Kish to Qatar and the lower cost of staying on this island make it possible for spectators and teams to stay here during the World Cup.”

Experts believe Iran would achieve a tourism rebound after the coronavirus disease is contained, believing its impact would be temporary and short-lived for a country that ranked the third fastest-growing tourism destination in 2019.

However, even before the coronavirus pandemic, Iran's tourism was already grappling with some challenges, on top of those Western “media propaganda” aimed at scaring potential travelers away from the Islamic Republic. Some

experts believe Iran is still somehow “unknown” for many potential travelers due to such a “media war”. They, however, consider bright prospects for the tourism sector of the country if it vigorously pursues comprehensive strategies to counter U.S.-led propaganda and strict sanctions, yet does its best to loosen tough travel regulations.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

5,000-year-old bowl recovered by Iranian authorities



TEHRAN – Iranian police have recovered a stone bowl estimated to date from the 3rd millennium BC.

A Bronze Age bowl, which dates from some 5,000 years ago, has been seized [from an authorized antique dealer] in the city of Jiroft, ISNA quoted a local official as saying on Saturday.

The historical and cultural authenticity of the object has been confirmed by Jiroft's office for Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Department, the official said.

Made of soapstone, the object is eight

cm in height and 11 cm in diameter, the report said.

Jiroft, a fertile plain situated in Kerman province, is a splendid cradle of civilization, which dates from the Early Bronze Age (late 3rd millennium BC).

In the very early 21st century, rounds of heavy floods along the Halil River swept the topsoil off thousands of previously unknown tombs and led to the discovery of many artifacts believed by archeologists to belong to the Early Bronze Age (late 3rd millennium BC).

Coronavirus: UNWTO, WHO call for lifting of travel restrictions, claim they're not effective

TEHRAN – The two UN agencies, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have agreed to collaborate on a global trust architecture for recovery of the travel sector.

In line with WHO's latest recommendations for safe international mobility, a growing number of countries around the world have started easing their rules for international arrivals, including the easing of travel bans.

WHO experts have concluded that blanket restrictions in controlling virus transmissions are ineffective.

Such a trend is also consistent with UNWTO's repeated warnings of the great social, economic and developmental harm of restrictions.

“Guided by UNWTO, global tourism has followed WHO advice from the very start of this crisis,” said UNWTO Secretary-General, Zurab Pololikashvili. He underscored the need to “continue to do so and to open up again, safely and responsibly, and allow tourism to deliver

on its unique potential as a driver of recovery and growth,” according to the World Tourism Organization.

According to the WHO International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee on COVID-19, all measures applied to international travellers should be based on “risk assessments – including testing, isolation and vaccinations”. Furthermore, the financial burden of such measures should not be placed on travellers themselves.

“As countries ease travel restrictions, health must remain the key priority. By basing their decisions on evidence and a risk-based approach adapted to their specific context, countries can find the right balance between keeping people safe, protecting livelihoods and the economy, and keeping borders open”, said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

The two UN agencies also stressed the need for clear and consistent rules relating to health and travel. There is a need for building a global trust

architecture for societies and economies in the context of the pandemic, and there is a “real opportunity for tourism to contribute to that process, with UNWTO playing a critical role”, said Michael Ryan, Executive Director WHO's Health Emergencies Programme.

Among the countries to have revised their travel restrictions is Switzerland, one of Europe's leading destinations, which welcomed the UNWTO delegation at the beginning of a week of key meetings.

Experts believe that if properly managed, tourism has the potential to act as a force for development and opportunity, as highlighted in the sector's enhanced relevance in the wider United Nations development agenda.

Over the past couple of days, destinations around the world report increased tourist arrival numbers on the back of easing or removing restrictions. This trend offers the potential to kickstart economic recovery and put social development progress back on track.

Why Harsin is magnificent hub for Kilim carpets

TEHRAN – Kilim, a flat traditional tapestry-woven rug or carpet, has long been used as a floor covering and is among handicrafts of the village or nomadic people of Iran.

Harsin in the western province of Kermanshah is one of the most important centers of Kilims weaving in Iran and its hand-woven products are internationally known with the same name.

One of the reasons that many men and women of Harsin take up making Kilims is that animal breeding is very common between the families and very high-quality wool is produced in Kermanshah and surrounding cities. In fact, it supplies one hundred percent natural



material which has become a specific trait of Harsin Kilims.

According to Visit Iran, there are some similarities between Harsin Kilims and Shiriki Pich of Sirjan which makes it possible that they have affected each other in time. But Harsin Kilims are double-sided and their backgrounds are usually dark blue or red. Other colors such as white, green, crimson red can be seen too.

Geographically, Harsin is situated in the south of

the ancient city of Kangavar. Reviewing the reliefs of surrounding archeological sites proves that Kilims and their attractive motifs were created in Harsin at least two hundred years ago. The motifs are made from memory and have passed from one generation to another, and can be divided into four groups of figurative, animal, floral, and geometric motifs.

Each particular design has its local name and is completely inspired by the natural environment and habitat of Harsin.


The weavers use these inspirations and incorporate them into abstract designs so that they can be applied in Kilims. Among the figurative

motifs are Cham or Chashm (eye) which is used as a talisman, Dast o Nav Dast (hand in hand) which is a symbol of union and friendship and Bovi (doll) is a symbol of protectors of the family, home and city.

Moreover, animal motifs are the abstract design of ducks, butterflies, cat claws, rabbits, jackals, scorpions, sparrows, snakes, etc. Today Harsin Kilims can be found not only in this city, but also in Gilan Gharb, Islamabad-e Gharb, and Javanrou.

Handmade Persian carpets are sought after internationally for their delicate designs and their good quality. They are almost expensive but they are worth every penny!

Second Announcement



IN THE NAME OF GOD
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL TENDER No: 1400/103-80/03

Tender Holder:
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.

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 participating 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

Purchasing (Kala) Dept.,IRIB

More out-of-school children back in education

TEHRAN – The number of children who have begun or continued their education in elementary schools nationwide has increased in the current school year (started September 23), an official with the Ministry of Education has said.

Last year, some 210,000 children who had lost the opportunity to study in elementary schools were enrolled, Rezvan Hakimzadeh said, saying that the figure has decreased to 185,000 in the current year, IRNA reported.

In the current school year, a total of 8.79 million children have enrolled in elementary schools, compared with an anticipated figure of 8.765 million, she noted.

Last December, Shapour Mohammadzadeh, head of the Literacy Movement Organization, said the average literacy rate for the age group of 6-10 years is 97



percent, according to the latest national census.

Also, the literacy rate among the urban population is 98 percent and that of the rural population is 92 percent, he added.

Before the [1979] Islamic rev-

olution, according to a census conducted in 1976, over 52.5 percent of the people were illiterate, he said, adding, only 24 percent of women in the country were literate. Also, the illiteracy gap between rural and urban areas was 35 percent.

No restrictions on vaccination of foreign nationals

TEHRAN – The medical sector is fully ready to vaccinate foreign nationals and there are no restrictions in this regard, Peyman Namdar, an official with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), has said.

The highest number of foreign nationals live in the provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan, South Khorasan, Kerman, and Khorasan Razavi, and the Red Crescent Society has taken good measures in these areas since the beginning of the general vaccination plan.

According to the announcement of the Ministry of Health with the cooperation of the IRCS, there are no restrictions on vaccination of foreign nationals and they can receive the second and third doses, IRNA reported on Saturday.

Many foreign nationals residing in Iran have received the second and third doses of the coronavirus vaccine, and the screening at the borders is being carried out seriously, and infected passengers will be quarantined immediately, he explained.

“The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has promised to cooperate in the fight against the pandemic by providing the necessary resources for the vaccination



of foreign nationals in Iran.

The cost of vaccinating foreign nationals will be covered by the ICRC, which has provided through a budget to the Red Crescent Society,” he added.

Based on the latest statistics, over 3 million Afghans are living in Iran – some 780,000 Afghan refugees, over 2 million undocumented Afghans, and another 600,000 Afghan passport-holders with Iranian visas.

However, in light of the pandemic, all refugees, even those undocumented, benefited from access to free primary health services and free COVID-19 related testing, treatment, and hospitalization, just like Iranian nationals.

The same happened for the vaccination when the country has generously considered refugees for vaccination against coronavirus.

The recent fast-paced turn of events in Afghanistan has the potential to create additional population movements; displacing families internally and potentially driving them to seek refuge in neighboring countries.

It is estimated that up to 300,000 Afghan asylum-seekers have fled to Iran this year alone in search of safety, while UNHCR has only been able to screen some 24,000 newly arrived Afghans for protection needs.

Antônio Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, has praised Iran's generosity which – for decades – has hosted millions of Afghans in need.

“At this moment, we need the global community to put their hands on the wheel of progress, provide resources, and prevent Afghanistan from spiraling any further.

I will never forget the generosity of countries like Pakistan and Iran, which – for decades – have hosted millions of Afghans in need,” Guterres said in a statement released on January 26 to the Security Council on Afghanistan.

Land title issued for over 9,000 hectares of Golestan National Park

TEHRAN – A cadastral map has been prepared for 9,477 hectares of the area of Golestan National Park, and a certificate of title was issued to evidence the government as the owner, Golestan Province's Justice Department Chief, Heydar Asiabi, has announced.

Another 11,000 hectares of the National Park has been mapped and by the end of the current year (March 20), a single-page document will be issued to certify that the land is owned by the Department of

Environment, he stated.

With the issuance of these documents, 24 percent of the areas of this biosphere reserve will be documented, and the survey of the remaining 75 percent will be done next year, he explained, IRNA reported on Saturday.

This year, a land title was also issued for 2,000 hectares of Alagol and Almagol International Wetlands in the name of the Forests, Rangelands, and Watershed Management Organization, according to Asiabi.

Stretched to 87,402 hectares,



Golestan National Park is home to one-seventh of Iran's plant species, one-third of all birds, and half of the country's mammals, hosting 1,350 plant species and 302 wildlife species. It has been listed as one of the top fifty ecosystems on the UNESCO

World Heritage List in 1930.

So far, 150 species of birds have been identified in Golestan National Park. Golden Eagle, eastern imperial eagle, saker falcon, falcon, and bearded vulture are among the endangered birds of the park. Other birds of Golestan National Park includes common pheasants, shrikes, griffon vulture, rosy starling, typical warblers, wheatears, finches, and common blackbirds.

The park holds a share of 3 species of amphibians and 24 species of reptiles.

Tehran hosting intl. exhibitions on environment, waste management

TEHRAN – The 3rd International Exhibition on Waste Management, Recycling, Municipal Services, and Related Industries (IWEX 2022) and the 19th International Exhibition on Environment opened on Saturday at Tehran Permanent International Fairground.

The exhibitions will be running until March 1.

Waste production is an integral part of urban life, which is turning into a huge problem that will first and most hurt those who produced them.

Although urbanization has affected human society and created many problems in both developed and underdeveloped countries, the developed ones have a plan for waste management and recycling a large part of it, and underdeveloped countries leave waste in nature, which will be the detriment of the environment and their health.



Per capita waste production in European countries is 300 to 350 grams, and in Iran, it is 700 grams and sometimes up to one kilogram, which unfortunately a very small part of it is separated and recycled.

With an average per capita of 700 grams to 1 kg, Iranians produce more than 50,000 tons of waste per day, which is basically twice the world standard.

The influence of Avicenna on medical studies in the West



Part 1

From the early fourteenth to the mid-sixteenth century Avicenna held a high place in Western European medical studies, ranking together with Hippocrates and Galen as an acknowledged authority. His works had a formative influence on the scholastic medicine of the later Middle Ages, and at some places continued to be used for teaching up to the eighteenth century.

Although Avicenna was more of a philosopher and natural scientist than a physician, the Europeans saw him primarily as the princeps medicorum (prince of physicians), in contrast with the Muslims who revered him as the æyāk-al-ra'is (chief master, i.e., of all the sciences). It is not yet possible, however, to assess his impact on the rise of scientific medicine in the West because systematic studies of the various fields are still, on the whole, lacking. A catalogue of the manuscripts of Latin versions of Avicenna's writings on medicine is still a desideratum, and there is no critical bibliography of the printed editions which came out in the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries.

Three medical works by Avicenna were available in Latin versions in the later Middle

Ages: al-Qanun fi'l-tebb, a five-book medical encyclopedia translated as Canon medicinae and provided with a glossary by Gerard of Cremona (d. 1187) at Toledo in the second half of the twelfth century; al-Adw'a al-qalbiya, a treatise on psychiatry translated as De viribus cordis (On the powers of the heart) by Arnald of Villanova (d. 1311) at Barcelona in 1306; al-Orjuza fi'l-?eb, a medical manual in verse rendered into Latin prose under the title Cantica by Arnald's nephew Armengaud Blasius (d. 1312) at Montpellier in 1294, together with Ebn Roæd's commentary thereon. The last two translations were wrongly attributed to Gerard in certain early printed editions.

The Canon translation was one of the fruits of the endeavors of the twelfth-century Toledan school of translators to open up the whole range of Arabic learning. They took particular interest in philosophical and theoretical writings. This phase in the Western reception of Greco-Arabic medicine had been preceded in southern Italy about a century earlier by one of greater concern with practical matters.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iranian zoos to be monitored online

The Department of Environment (DOE) will launch an online monitoring system in zoos across the country, the Department of Environment's director general for hunting and fishing has said.

“Putting in place the necessary infrastructure for this plan is underway; newly constructed zoos are supposed to have an online monitoring system, and the old ones must launch the system as soon as possible,” IRNA quoted Ali Teymouri as saying on Saturday.

Teymouri stated that all provincial departments of environment must supervise the zoo online systems to register all animal species entering or leaving the zoo, casualties and causes.

The necessary infrastructure has been prepared to some extent in two zoos, and the rest of the zoos will launch the in the near future gradually, he added.

باغ وحش های کشور آنلاین پایش می شوند

مدیرکل حفاظت و مدیریت شکار و صید سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست گفت: پایش آنلاین باغ وحش های کشور جزو برنامه های سازمان است و در حال تهیه زیر ساخت برای اجرای آن هستیم.

علی تیموری روز شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار علمی ایرنا افزود: باغ وحش هایی که جدید احداث می شوند باید حتما سیستم پایش آنلاین داشته باشند، مجموعه های قدیمی نیز باید هر چه سریعتر این سیستم را راه اندازی کنند.

وی اظهار داشت: باید تمام ادارات کل استان ها آدرس سیستم آنلاین باغ وحش ها را دریافت کنند تا ورود و خروج گونه ها از باغ وحش، ورود گونه های جدید، تلفات و دلایل آن را ثبت و به صورت آنلاین در جریان قرار گیرند.

تیموری گفت: زیر ساخت های این کار تا حدودی آغاز شده و دو مجموعه کار زیر ساخت را شروع کرده اند و بقیه باغ وحش ها هم به مرور انجام خواهند داد.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON FEBRUARY 26

New cases	7,039
New deaths	224
Total cases	7,030,943
Total deaths	136,390
New hospitalized patients	1,621
Patients in critical condition	3,966
Total recovered patients	6,616,633
Diagnostic tests conducted	47,087,743
Doses of vaccine injected	141,006,000

TEHRAN TIMES





Tehrantimes79

www.tehrantimes.com

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Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.O. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

FEBRUARY 27, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He who is greedy is disgraced; he who discloses his hardship will always be humiliated; he who has no control over his tongue will often have to face discomfort.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:17 Evening: 18:16 Dawn: 5:13 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:36 (tomorrow)

“The Tartar Steppe” stretches into Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – “The Tartar Steppe”, Italian author Dino Buzzati’s 1940 novel, has been published in Persian.

Mahi is the publisher of the book translated into Persian by Soroush Habibi.

The novel tells the story of a young officer, Giovanni Drogo, and his life spent guarding the Bastiani Fortress, an old, unmaintained border fortress.

The work was heavily influenced by the 1904 poem “Waiting for the Barbarians” written by Constantine Cavafy.

The English translation was done by Stuart C. Hood. The novel was ranked 29th on Le Monde’s 100 Books of the Century list.

The plot of the novel is Drogo’s lifelong wait for a great war in which his life and the existence of the fort would be able to prove its usefulness.

The human need for giving life meaning and the soldier’s desire for glory are themes in the novel.

Drogo, assigned to the remote outpost overlooking a desolate Tartar desert, spends his career waiting for the barbarian horde rumored to live beyond the desert.

Without noticing, Drogo finds that in his watch over the fort he has let years and decades pass and that, while his old friends in the city have had children, married, and lived full lives, he has come away with nothing except solidarity with his fellow soldiers in their long, patient vigil.

When the attack by the Tartars finally arrives, Drogo becomes ill and the new commanding officer of the fortress dismisses him. On his way back home, Drogo dies all alone while at an inn.

In 1976, the novel was adapted into a homonymous film (known in English as “The Desert of the Tartars”) by Italian director Valerio Zurlini and starring Jacques Perrin as Drogo with Max von Sydow as Ortiz and Vittorio Gassman as Filimore.

Sadi: works and life

Part 10

It is divided into ten chapters, the titles of which are actually given in the preamble. They provide at least an approximate guide to their respective contents: 1. on justice, good management of affairs, and good judgment; 2. on beneficence (i.e., charitable acts above the call of strict duty); 3. on love, intoxication, and passion; 4. on humility; 5. on acceptance (i.e., of God’s will); 6. on contentment (i.e., with limited material possessions); 7. on the world of edification (in effect, about restraint or self-control); 8. on gratitude for being in good estate; 9. on repentance and taking the right course; 10. on close communion (with God).

Sadi himself may have valued the Bustan somewhat above his lighter and more generally popular prose-and-verse Golestan, which he produced a few months later, probably partly from unused material originally considered for the earlier work.

In both works a very high standard of elegance, fluency, color, and effectiveness is maintained throughout, but the Bustan is undoubtedly of more serious purpose and tone.

Although it does contain twenty to thirty significant stories (out of the 160 specifically designated as “tales” in this writer’s translation), most of the narratives are short, and many are fairly incidental to the discursive text.

The important component is the argument, though the work is generally contemplative, rhapsodic, and exhortatory, rather than closely reasoned in any philosophical sense.

The Bustan may be perceived as inculcating a code of behavior that is a paradoxical combination of the realistic and pragmatic with the mystical and high-minded; taken as a whole and literally, it includes undoubted contradictions.

But, especially in the first chapter, it contains passages of particular frankness, even of courage, addressed (albeit usually in partially disguised form) to rulers and other people in authority in the poet’s time.

A good deal of the material purports to be drawn from direct personal experience (most notably, perhaps, the famous story of the

desecration of the idol in Gujerat).

Henri Massé, in his work on the potential correlation of Sadi’s life and writings, makes a rather positive judgment on this point. The majority of Persian critics, however, consider such stories to have been invented by Sadi in order to illustrate his views and therefore consider them hardly to be taken literally for the reconstruction of his life.

This is not to suggest that Sadi meant to mislead. If he had, he would—in his small, close-knit world—soon have become a byword for exaggeration and untruth, whereas in fact he was a respected, even revered, figure in his later years.

But whatever his personality may have included of learning, wisdom, mystical yearning, and adventurousness, he was first and foremost a literary craftsman and a creative artist.

His chief concern, whether arguing a case or telling a tale, was to be lucid, witty, persuasive, and almost forcibly immediate. It is this last quality that sets his work off from so much in the classical Islamic literatures (even the prose works) that is wholly abstract and idealized.

Sadi saw his own world distinctly and vividly, and he brings us as intimately into it as a poet can do at a remove of more than seven centuries, thousands of miles, and enormous cultural, scientific, and technical change.

The other striking aspect of his immediacy is the note of originality he nearly always succeeds in sounding: Wherever his material comes from, and much of it is rooted in Islamic tradition derived from Quranic precepts and the words and deeds of the Prophet Muhammad (S), he almost invariably makes it his own by a subtle, and occasionally not so subtle, process of assimilation and revivification.

The Bustan remains a much-quoted work, even though the quotations are not always accurate or acknowledged.

In this respect it exemplifies something of that thorough blend of national wisdom and linguistic sense that is represented in English by the Bible and the works of Shakespeare.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

Concluded

World Congress of Arts for Muhammad (S) exhibit opens in Shiraz

TEHRAN – An exhibition showcasing a selection of top submissions to the World Congress of Arts for Muhammad (S), the Prophet of Mercy opened on Saturday in Shiraz.

The Center for Artistic Creations of Professors in Shiraz organizes the congress in collaboration with several Islamic centers to promote artworks in different media.

The exhibition underway at the branch office of the National Library and Archives of Iran in Fars Province will run until March 3.

Top works in painting, calligraphy, calligraphic painting, poster design, typography, digital art, short film, music video, play, and short story and poetry will be

A file photo shows an artist creating an artwork for the World Congress of Arts for Muhammad (S), the Prophet of Mercy.

honored on Sunday and Monday.

Hassan Ruholamin, an Iranian painter who is most famous for

illustrating stories from the history of Islam, has created “Jabal an-Nur” exclusively for

Rafat Hashempur, voice of Scarlett O’Hara in “Gone with the Wind”, dies at 90

From Page 1 ▶ She also voiced Irene Papas in “The Message”, Hedy Lamarr in “Samson and Delilah”, Anna Magnani in “Rome, Open City”, Susan Hayward in “The Snows of Kilimanjaro” and “I Want to Live!” and Faye Dunaway in “Bonnie and Clyde”.

Her voice was also behind several characters portrayed by Sophia Loren, Ava Gardner, Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda, Ingrid Bergman, Anne Bancroft, Susan Sarandon and many other celebrated actresses.

Hashempur also directed voice actors in several popular TV series, including the Canadian series “Road to Avonlea”, in which she also voiced Hetty King played by Jackie Burroughs.

When Iranian movies used to be dubbed, Hashempur also lent her voice to actresses such as Mahin Shahabi, Shahla Riahi, Fakhri Khorvash, Akram Mohammadi and Farideh

Sepahmansur.

Over the past two decades, Hashempur almost quit dubbing, mostly focusing on education to train a new generation of voice actors, who are currently among the big names of Iran’s dibbing domain.

“We lived together for over 50 years,” Maqami told the Persian Service of ISNA and added, “We were always beside each other and worked together, and I’m really sad as she has gone. I lost my wife who was also my sympathetic colleague.”

He said that they learned many things from each other, and noted, “However, we were not training teachers for each other.”

Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting Managing Director Payman Jebelli sent a message of condolences published on Saturday.

“With her unparalleled skills, she worked

Iranian voice actor Rafat Hashempur in an undated photo.

devotedly and away from controversy, and her works will remain etched in our memories,” he said.

Architect Farshid Moussavi honored with Jane Drew Prize

TEHRAN – UK-based Iranian architect Farshid Moussavi has been awarded the Jane Drew Prize for Architecture 2022.

The Jane Drew Prize is an award recognizing an architectural designer who has raised the profile of women in architecture, the Architectural Review announced last Thursday.

The prize is given annually by the Architects’ Journal, an architectural magazine published in London by Metropolis International. It is named after the English modernist architect Jane Drew.

Moussavi is a co-founder of Foreign Office Architects, famous for the Yokohama International Ferry Terminal which opened in 2002, and founded Farshid Moussavi Architecture (FMA) in 2011.

Her practice’s works include the Museum of Contemporary

A view of the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland designed by Farshid Moussavi and built in 2012. (AR/Stephen Gill)

Art Cleveland as well as two housing projects in France – Ilot 19 in Nanterre from 2016 and La Folie Divine in Montpellier a year later – and is currently working on the Ismaili Center Houston, due to be completed in 2024.

“It is a very great honor for me to receive the Jane Drew Prize, which has done so much to draw attention to the

achievements of women in the field of architecture,” Moussavi said.

“There are relatively few role models for women in architectural practice, and I believe that this allows them the freedom to be more creative in responding to the urgent challenges facing architects today, whether these challenges

are finding new and more generous uses for buildings, as well as new languages in which to engage a larger and more diverse public, or addressing climate change to protect future generations,” she added.

In addition, British-Palestinian artist Mona Hatoum also won the Ada Louise Huxtable Prize for Contribution to Architecture 2022, which recognizes individuals working in the wider architectural industry who have made a significant contribution to architecture and the built environment.

Hatoum’s work is often at an architectural scale and inhabits whole rooms. Among her works are the cage-like structures of Light Sentence from 1992, the installation of a loom in a room scattered with balls of hair in Recollection from 1995, and the metal bunks of Quarters from 1996.

An old guerrilla from Bandar Lengeh and his stories

A note on the book “The Windcatchers are waiting” by Azam Posht Mashhadi

By Ali Mousavi

The book “The windcatchers are waiting” is a collection of Martyr Ebrahim Beshkardi Zadeh’s memories by Azam Posht Mashhadi. It’s a remarkable book about one of the holy defense martyrs that have been narrated by his family members, his colleagues, and comrades. The first volume of this book has been published in 2021 by Soore Mehr publication.

In the book introduction, the culture center of the Hormozgan province states that this book is about a man who went to war to protect his country with all his heart, and in the end, he

achieved his long-held dream.

The process of recording and collecting memories of him has been done with the help and suggestion of the Dar Al-Aqaed Cultural Institute, and all interviews were conducted by Mahboubeh Velayati and Halimeh Shahi, researchers from Bandar Lengeh.

Ebrahim Beshkardi Zadeh, known as the Old Guerrilla, was born in 1313 in the city of Bandar Lengeh. He lost his parents when he was young and grew up with his grandmother. Before the Islamic revolution, he fought against the imperial regime and was sent to front at the start of the imposed war.

This book has 8 chapters, the first of which, entitled “life” is about his childhood, adolescence, and his middle age. The main narrator of this chapter is his wife, Fatemeh Mahmoudi Rudbari, who was also one of his relatives from his childhood; besides, the children of the martyr are also the narrators. In the first chapter, the readers will read about the cultural, social, and economic conditions of him and his family and where he lived.

In the second chapter, entitled “Living with the people”, the martyr’s wife, children, friends, and comrades talk about the characteristics and democracy of Martyr Beshkarizadeh.

The third chapter is about his revolutionary activity in the days before its victory.

The fourth chapter focuses on the most crucial and influential time of Martyr Beshkarizadeh’s life: his presence on the front lines.

The fifth chapter, titled “The Last Visit”, is about the last days of Bashkirizadeh’s life. In this chapter, the martyr’s wife, and children refer to the last times they saw or talked to him.

In the sixth chapter, titled “Memories”, family members, friends, colleagues, and comrades narrate their memories of this martyr.

The seventh chapter, entitled “Waiting” is about the moments his family and friends were waiting for him to come back which finally ends with the announcement of the martyrdom. And the last chapter is dedicated to related appendices and photographs.