Introduction
Samarkand region is located in the central part of Uzbekistan, in the west bank of the Zarafshan river. According to natural and geographical conditions, this region is one of the favorable regions in Central Asia for agriculture and economic exchanges. The territory of Samarkand region is a kind of combination of floodplains flat and mountainous terrain. Most of the territory of Samarkand is occupied by plains, where a complex system of artificial irrigation was developed since the antiquity.

According to Medieval written sources (10th-12th) there were six rustaks (districts) in eastern and northern areas of Samarkand oasis. And they had grand mosques. They are Yarket, Burnamad, Buzmazhon, Kabudanzhaket, Vedar and Marzbon ibn Turgesh. Three of them - Buzmazhon, Kabudanzhaket Vedar’s location have been debating longly among historians, orientalists and archaeologists of Central Asia. Recently, this issue has been treated by A. A. Raimkulov.

Yarket and Burnamad rustakwas bordered Ustrushana (historical region); according to research this place located Uuratubin-Shakhristan territory of modern Tadjikistan and Zamin plain of the Dzhizzak-Syrdarya ) and their lands were not irrigated with the waters of Zarafshan and other natural sources. The center of the Burnamad rustak was located on the ancient caravan route from Zamin to Samarkand. Distance between Zamin and Burnamed was about 4 farsakh (measure of length; widely used in Central Asia; in Khorezm, Bukhara, Samarkand, Tashkent and Fergana in the 19th century the farsakh was about 6-7 km). This road passes through the northern and western spurs of the Zarafshan Range and the Morguzar mountains. This rustak was located in the modern territory of the Bakhmal district in the Dzhizzak region.

Yarket rustak covered a large plain north of Burnamad, in the western and south-western part of Nurata Mountains, to the north and north-east of Gubduntau mountains and east of Karakchitau. Yarket rustak corresponds to the modern Gallyaaral district. According to the sources, fields of Yarket had large pasture lands, while agriculture was rain-fed and without irrigation. People could go 5 farsakh along mountain road from Burnamad to Hushufagn. So, Hushufagn was situated in the western foothills of Turkestan range. There was Barket city in the distance between Hushufagn and Buzmazhon. It located for 4 farsakh into the Katvan desert. Archaeologist H. G. Akhunbabaev (1983, P.155), who made an archaeological survey in Bulungur district in 1980’s, identified Barket with the large archaeological site of Aktepa, located in the modern village of Aktepa-Mita. According to the Arab traveler Ibn Havkal, Buzmazhon and Maymurg (the rustak covering the territory of modern Tayylak and Urgut districts in the south-east of modern city of Samarkand) were rustaks of Kesh, Southern Sogd. Perhaps in 12th century
of high mosque of the Maverannahr and measured 100x70 m and 18 m
rustraks of Buzmazhon and Maymurg, at some time, were belonged to Kesh. In Barket the major road
divided into two directions: the first run west to Samarkand, located four farsakh far from it; the
second gone to the north-west - in the directions of Kabudanzhaket, Vedar, Marzbon ibn Turgash, and
Ishtikhan. According to Akhunbabaev (1983.Pp156-157;1990. Pp 26-28), Kabudanzhaket was situated in
the place of Mingtepa settlement, located near the modern village Korapichok. It is noteworthy that, still
today, local inhabitants call Mingtepa as Affrasiab, which is the usual name of the archaeological site
corresponding to the ancient Maracanda.

The next settlement along this road was the city Vedar. Medieval sources reported that this city was the
center of the homonymous rustak and it was situated 4 farsakh (30 km) north of Samarkand. Vedar
rustak had both irrigated and mountainous areas (Bartold,1963. P.193). Large fields were irrigated of
Vedar took water from the artificial canals of Bulungur. Pai and Karasuv. The latter Karasuv river
flowed east by the mountain Karakchitau and near Ishtikhan it merged the left tributary of the Amdarya
(the right branch of the Zarafshan after that the river splits twice at the height of Chopan-Ata hill, just the
north of Samarkand). Written sources also mention the Sinavab (sometimes also reported as Siyelob), which
crossed the Vedar rustak and then reached Ishtikhan. In my opinion, Sinavab was the name of the medieval
eriver Karasuv. Of course, Karasuv river did not reach the Ishtikhan city, but the water of this river used for
irrigation of land near the city.

Based on these data, it is possible that Vedar rustak was located in the north of Akdarya river, on the
territory of modern Payaryk and Koshrabat districts and it occupied the western territory of neighboring modern Gallaaral district (ancient Yarket rustak). The centre of the rustak of Vedar was Vedar
city. According to written sources, Vedar existed the earliest cathedral mosque of the Maverranhah and here it was produced the famous “cotton waste tissue of Vedar”. At the distance of 4 farsakh, today is situated the town of Chelek, where a large tepa (archaeological mound) is still well preserved.

In 1940, the hill of Chelek was firstly studied and drawn up topographical map by archaeologists I. A.
Sukharev and P. F. Liferekeno (1940.Pp, 61-62). Mounds consisted of three parts: citadel, shahrarlam and rabad. Citadel was situated in the center of the Shahristan and it was measured 100x70 m and 18 m in height. However, it was largely destroyed between 1950-1970’s because of factory and nowadays, only a small part of the ancient citadel still remains. The southern part of the city is about 20-25 acres, and almost the entire area is now covered by modern residential buildings. In southern part there are partial remains of the southern ramparts of the Shahristan. The northern part of the settlement is approximately 15 hectares. A part of the defensive wall, about 200

| Impact Factor:          | ISRA (India) | SIS (USA) | ICV (Poland) |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| ISI (Dubai, UAE)       | 0.829       | 0.126     | 1.940        |
| GII (Australia)        | 0.564       | 0.912     | 4.260        |
| JIF                    | 1.500       | 5.667     | 0.350        |

meters long, is still preserved in the north-eastern part of the monument. The Rabab was possibly located in the south of Shakhristan, where is situated a famous ancient bazar in Chelek. Also the Rabab is actually covered residential and public buildings.

Although largely damaged, the hill of Chelek can be identified as the Medieval city of Weder because its position coincides with the distance from Samarkand (4 farsakh) and because, except for it, there are no others such a large archaeological settlements in the north of Samarkand.

Archaeological explorations conducted on the territory of Payaryk and Koshrabat districts in Samarkand region indicates that in ancient times, there were several large cities like Sagardji (Sagishtepa, Arktepa) Kurgantepa in Arlate, Bekkurgantepa in Dhzushe and several of settlements were in the north of the Zarafshan and this area had become one of the densely populated areas of the ancient Sogd.

The famous orientalist V. V. Bartold wrote that Vedar city was famous with its clothes for example, in Khorasan, only the Emirs, ministers, Cadies and rich men were sewn garments from this fabric. In that century the Arab historian al-Mukaddas wrote that this textile was highly appreciated by Baghdad sultans. In that century an Arab traveler and historian Ibn Haukal left this impression “...in the city made vedarian fabrics of cotton, they were put on without slicing (Bartold, 1963.P. 441). This information provides us with the possibility of representing the number of demand and production of high-quality, distinctive fabric in this city, and certainly in the city most of the population engaged in the production of fabric.

According to the Arab traveler Jacob a mosque existed in Vedar. It is worth noting that the Arab travelers arriving in Maverranhah in the 10th century, considered as city only those settlements that had central mosques. From this point of view, it becomes quite obvious that in the 10th century Vedar was one of a full-fledged city of Maverranhah.

In the 8th-9th centuries, Arabs resettled to Vedar city and in several villages in the surrounding area. They belonged to Arabic tribe of Bakir ibn Vayil called "Suba‘i". This name comes from the name of Abu Muzahim bin Suba-an-Nadir al-Sukkori, the founder of the Vedar mosque, who died in the year 269 AH (882). In the 12th century Vederstill was an important city with its cathedral mosque, defensive wall and tower (Bartold,1963. P.195).

Nowadays, near the southern wall of Shahristan in the territory of rabad, in the western part of the city Chelek bazaar, there is a shrine and tomb named "Gayib ata". Although this place holds an important part among local inhabitants, there is no gravestones so no one knows who was buried here, as well as there is no legend on it. It is likely that this tomb belongs to Abu Muzahimu bin Suba-an-Nadir al-Sukkori as the grave of the theologian was visited and made...
Marzbon ibn Turgash was the title Mayor of Marzbon. Marzbon is a title rather than a name and it refers to the Sogdian farmers who were invited to the court of the Caliph. There aren’t any views points and facts among scientists about location place of settlement Marzbon ibn Turgash. Near the Chelek settlement there is a medieval fort Sogishtepa (Arktepa) located in 15-16 km in the west of Chelek. Sogishtepa (Arktepa) localized to the medieval town Sagardji (Buriakov, Vafaev, 1990. Pp. 43-48).

Archaeological excavations carried out at Sogishtepa in 1983 revealed the ruins of a fortress of the 2nd-1st centuries BC. After the Arab conquest of the ancient city in the early 8th century, appeared neighborhoods and the fortress of the ancient city turns on the citadel. Thus, in Medieval centuries, like many other cities in Maveraunnahr, Sagardj consisted of the citadel, shahristan and rabad and it covered an area of more than 100 hectares.

Marzbon ibn Turgash was undoubtedly the Sogdian name of a historical figure during the Arab conquest. The word “marzbon” means status (position), possibly the ruler of the city, hence, it is possible that Marzbon ibn Turgash lived in Sagardj.

The Medieval town of Sagardj always attracted the attention of historians and archaeologists. The mound was firstly noted by V. L. Vyatkin (1902. P.62) in 1899, who wrote that coins were minted in the early Islamic period. Another orientalist V.V. Bartold was suspicious, to this opinion. In this case, V.V. Bartold was right, because there was not found any minted coin in Central Asia. But these data can prove that Marzbon ibn Turgash lived in this city.

The first archaeological research was conducted by G.V. Grigorev and I.A. Suharev in 1940 (Grigorev, 1940. P. 148; Sukharev, 1940. Pp. 61-62).

The Arab traveler and geographer Ibn Haukal, who visited Maveraunnahr in the 10th century, suggested that the toponym Sagardj meant mountain system, as Nurata Mountains. However, Ibn Haukal apparently has never been in Sagardj but he saw these mountains only from afar. The Arab traveler Jakub (10th century) and the traveler from Merv Abdalkarim al-Sam’ani (12th century) described Sagardjas a village.

In the 14th-15th centuries, written sources on Amir Temur and his dynasty reported that Amir Temur had rested many times in Sagardj. Zakhird din Muhammad Babur wrote in his work of Baburname that Sagardj was ruled by his cousin and he was there several times. Here, in the 12th century, the famous Burhoniddin Sagardji sheikh was born (Muslim scholar). Amir Temur built mausoleum above his grave, which is called Rukhabad now.

During the 1960’s, a vast area around Sogishtepa, corresponding to its rabad was destroyed. According to local residents, before reclamation of this land ca. 700-800 m to the south of Sogishtepa the remains of quadrilateral ponds (70-80x25-30 m, depth 2.5-3 m) were well visible. Perhaps these ponds treated to epoch of Amir Temur and maintained to have a rest after long military campaigns.

At the time of the Ashrakhanids domination (17th century.) sources reported that Sagardj was the center of a large oasis. In his publication “Bahr ul-asor” of the 1640, the historian Mamud Ibn Vali wrote that Maveraunnahr was divided into Bukhara, Samarkand, Sagardj, Uratepa, Karshi and Guzar. Sagardj city may possibly started to lose its value in the 20’s of the 17th century, when a terrible famine and the decline began in Maveraunnahr. During the reign of Mangits dynasty in Bukhara Emirate took its place Chelak, heir to the ancient Vedar city.

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| Impact Factor:                  |
|-------------------------------|
| ISRA (India) = 4.971           | SIS (USA) = 0.912 |
| ISI (Dubai, UAE) = 0.829      | ICV (Poland) = 6.630 |
| GIF (Australia) = 0.564        | PII (Russia) = 0.126 |
| JIF = 1.500                   | PIF (India) = 1.940 |
|                              | ESJI (KZ) = 8.716 |
|                              | IBJ (India) = 4.260 |
|                              | SJIF (Morocco) = 5.667 |
|                              | OAJI (USA) = 0.350 |

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