



Destiny Making Moments

Long before the establishment of the European Union. It was believed that Union of European Countries is a myth upheld from the ancient era, brought about every once in a while, when Europe became weak.

The last time, after overcoming 1930 economic crisis, this idea was strongly brought about in Austria. Finally in 1952, and after 1990, and later in 1993, the idea of European Union was materialized through the establishment of the Union.

Considering the process of its establishment, there were, and still are, various opinions about it.

Now while nearing the referendum in UK for remaining in, or exiting from The European Union, it has been said that the majority are of the opinion that remaining and interacting is better than exiting. Once exiting occurs, it will be vital for both European Countries, and UK, especially for the government of David Cameron, the Conservative Party, and even for world economy.

Dr. Amir Houshang Amini

Iran's Foreign Trade

during

The first month of year 1395



According to the statistics of the I.R of Iran's Customs Department, the Iran's foreign trades volume during the first month of the year 1395 are as indicated in the following tables:

Primary import/export statistics of non-oil goods with the calculation of gas's liquidities during the first month of 1395

activity	Two month of the year 1394		Two month of the year 1393		Percentage of changes	
	Weight (Thousand Tons)	value (Million Dollar)	Weight (Thousand Tons)	value (Million Dollar)	weight	Dollar
Export	8.183	3.006	5.934	2.786	37.89	7.91
Import	1.925	1.980	1.925	1.978	-0.02	0.07

A. Imports:

During the first month of

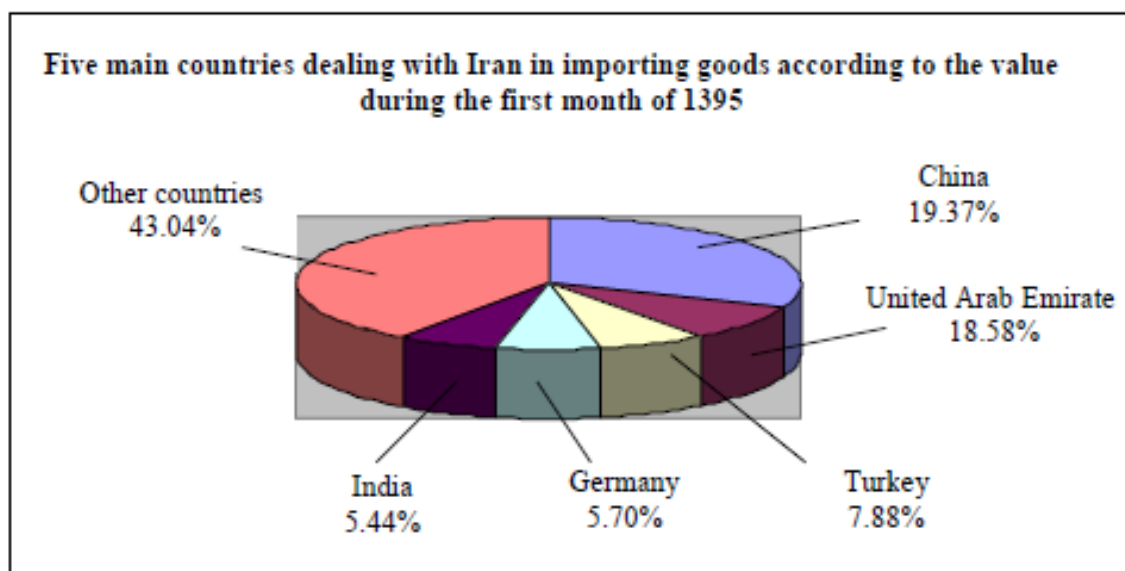
1395, the most value and rank is "Soybeans" with 87 million dollars and a value of weight of imports, at the first

4.41 percent.

The most important imports during the first month of 1395, have been done with countries, as follows: 1) "China" with 207 thousand tons and 383 million Dollars and 10.76 percent of weight and 19.37 percent of value, 2) "United Arab

Emirates " with 369 thousand Tons and 368 million Dollars and 19.16 percent of weight and 18.58 percent of value, 3) "Turkey" with 93 thousand tons and 156 million Dollars and 4.86 percent of weight and 7.88 percent of value, 4) "Germany" with 125 thousand

tons and 113 million Dollars and 6.51 percent of weight and 5.70 percent of value and 5) "India" with 90 thousand tons and 108 million Dollars and 4.68 percent of weight and 5.44 percent of value.



Exports:

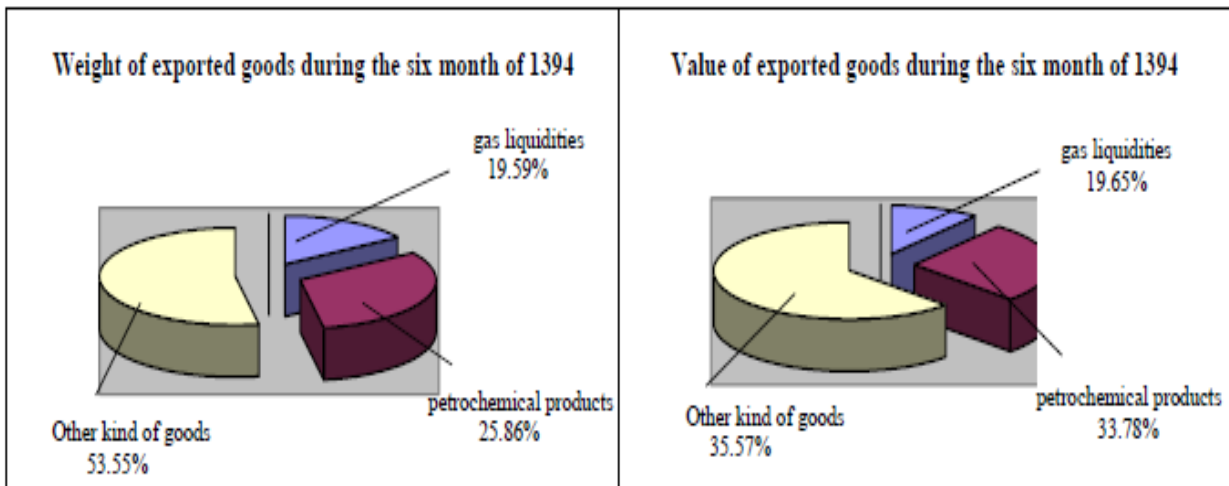
During the first month of 1395, a compound of exported

goods with the separation of gas liquidities, petrochemical products and other kind of goods

such as industrial, agricultural, mineral, carpet and handy crafts are as follows:

Export statistics of goods separating of gas liquidities, petrochemical products and other kind of goods (with the exception of petroleum and gas)

sort of exported goods	First month of 1395				First month of 1394				Percentage of Changes	
	Weight (Thousand Tons)	value (Million Dollar)	Share of total		Weight (Thousand Tons)	value (Million Dollar)	Share of total		Weight	Dollar
			Weight	Value			Weight	Value		
gas liquidities	1.349	545	16.49	18.12	867	499	14.61	17.91	55.59	9.22
petrochemical products and other kind of goods	6.834	2.461	83.51	81.88	5.067	2.287	85.39	82.09	34.87	7.65
Total	8.183	3.006	100	100	5.934	2.786	100	100	37.89	7.91

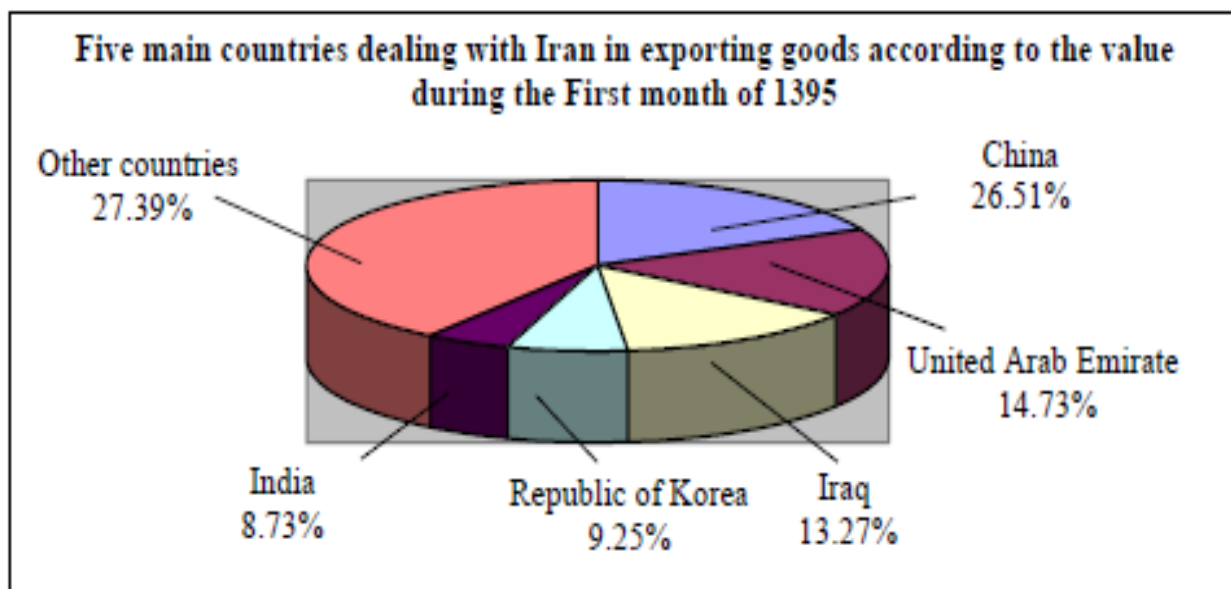


As indicated in the table, export has decreased 37.89 percent of weight and 17.91 percent in value of Dollar.

During the first month of 1395, most of exports have done with the countries, as follows: 1) "China" with 2.655 thousand tons and value of 797 million Dollars

and 32.45 percent of weight and 26.51 percent of value, 2) "United Arab Emirate" with 1.037 thousand tons value of 443 million Dollars and 12.68 percent of weight and 14.74 percent of value, 3) "Iraq" with 1.144 thousand tons and value of 399 Million Dollars and 13.99 percent of weight and 13.27 percent of value,

4) "Republic of Korea" with 660 thousand tons and value of 278 million Dollars and 8.07 percent of weight and 9.25 percent of value, and 5) "India" with 562 thousand tons and value of 263 million dollars and 6.87 percent of weight and 8.74 percent of value.



Average price of each ton of exported goods has been 367 Dol-

lars which compared with similar period in last year, has been de-

creased 21.75 percent in value of dollar.

Sarein



Sarein or Sareyn is a small city near Ardabil in the Northwest of Iran .Serein is the most famous and popular hot springs center of Iran, however there are plenty of other Mineral and hot springs in different area of Iran as: Mahallat, Abe Ask, Ramsar, and,.. But Sarein center of Mineral water Spa, in Ardabil Province is due to the location, quality of its water, and other local production such as Honey, Carpet , silk rugs and ... is the most visited hot springs area with accommodation facilities in Iran

Sarein (also Romanized as Sareyn) is defined in the Persian dictionary as “spring’s Outlet”, and is the only City of Sarein County

Introduction:

Sarein County is a county in Ardabil Province. The capital of the county is the city of Sarein. This county was split off from Ardabil County after the 2006 census. According to the 2006 census, the county’s population was 17,197, in 3,937 families. The county consists of two districts: the Central District and Sabalan District. Sarein County has only one city called Sarein.

Ardabil Province, which was established in 1993 from the eastern part of East Azerbaijan, Zanjan, and Gilan, is one of the 31 provinces of Iran with an area of 17,800 Square km and 1.248 million habitants (2011). Its administrative center is Ardabil.

Its famous natural region is the Sabalan Mountains, one of the most interesting mountains of Iran, with an altitude of about 4,811 m., which is originally a volcanic mountain. Its summits is located 41 km. from Ardabil and can be easily observed while traveling on the road to Sarein and Ardabil. There is a lake on the top of the Sabalan Mountain, which is a major attraction for



professional hikers.

Sabalan is located in Meshginshahr city in Ardebil province. It is the third highest mountain of Iran with a permanent crater lake at the summit, located on the southeast side of the mountain, is elliptical with an area of 120 hectares. This salt-water lake is located south of the Ardabil city and constitutes an important recreational site for the inhabitants of Ardabil with several facilities.

Since it is covered with ice from mid-September through early June, mountain climbers use it for ice skating.

Sabalan has a ski resort and different tourist areas such as mentioned the Serein’s hot water Spa, and it is known for its beautiful vistas.

Many domestic and foreign tourists come to this region for its cool climate (max 35 °C) during the hot summer

months, and in the winter for skiing. Climate is in the winters bitterly cold, with temperatures descending to -25° .

Sabalan enjoys specific attractions in various seasons of the year where the mountain climber feels he has entered a land of dreams and wonders.

There are also many trails and a few small villages in the area, as well as many nomadic people with their round ‘Yurt’ tents. Visiting these nomadic people is one of the best reasons for climbing the mountain.

The native language of Sarein is the Azeri dialect, however Persian is understood and official language.

On the slopes of the mountain, many mineral water springs flow.

Thousands of tourists visit the springs each year and many claim its therapeutic benefits.

The mountain, the crater



and the lake can usually be ascended from the northern and southern tracks.

Once ascended, one can see a panorama of the beautiful region for more than a 100 kilometers around.

Ardabil's capital stands about 70 km from the Caspian Sea. The province has been blessed with splendid natural beauty and numerous sights. The province is divided into 10 counties: Ardabil, Bilasavar, Germe, Khalkhal, Kowsar, Meshginshahr,

Namin, Sarein, Nir, and Parsabad.

Ardabil is known for its silk and carpet trade tradition. Ardabil rugs are renowned and the ancient Ardabil Carpets are considered some of the best of the classical Persian carpet creations. Ardabil is also known as the seat of a World Heritage Site: the sanctuary and tomb of Shaikh Safi ad-Din, eponym of the Safavid Dynasty.

Rural areas of the province especially on the outskirts of

the Sabalan Mountains due to their landscapes and attractions annually host several visitors. Some of the historical villages of the province have their own importance from the tourism point of view. Some of these villages are Onar in Meshginshahr, Kalkhoran and Sangi in Ardabil

Ardabil province, as mentioned is more or less well known for its carpets as well as sweets such as Halva. The souvenirs of the province are: wickerwork, wool handwoven cloth, coarse rug, felt carpet, different metal and wooden works, inlaid, silver objects, earthenware, local shoes, and other handicrafts.

This spring is located 24 kilometers from Ardabil and one kilometer north of Vakil Abad Village among a vast valley, and its temperature is 49° C. Its altitude is 1,820 meters above the sea level. Its water is enriched with several minerals useful for rheumatism and skin diseases.

Serein Its geographic coordinates is 38°09'N 48°04'E. and is known for its hot springs. The population is about 8000, and increases to more than 20000 domestic and foreign tourists in the summer time, due to the charming climate. It stands 28 km from Ardabil



and total area is 1.28 km².

Sarein is also famous for its 'Ashe Doogh' (Yogurt Soups), during the busy summer periods, it is not uncommon for many of the local shops to be seen selling and preparing this soup.

Hot springs (spa) have always been in Sarein, but the 1990s earthquake caused some of them to get colder or hotter. The water is heated largely by the Sabalan Mountain which is one of Iran's highest mountain after Damavand.

Sarein is also very famous for its honey, again like the soup, many of Sarein's shops sell honey which is produced locally by the Bee keepers of the area.

The climate and hot springs are the first attractions for tourists who travel to this region from different parts of Iran and the world.

There are about 250 Hotel, Motel, and inn, in different class in Sarein.

The Sarein springs are near an inactive volcano in mount Sabalan and its water contains sulphur particles and it is believed that it is good for bone and joint pains.

The most important mineral water springs of Sarein are located in Vila Darreh and Vakil Abad.

Vila Darreh village is located some 4 km northwest of Sarein.

Most springs in this village are cold and lukewarm. This

region is very famous due to its being close to Sarein and its exquisite sceneries.

There are 5 mineral water springs in this village including: Vila Darreh, Sari Qieh Souei, Ab Bad, Ab Cheshm and Gol Ali springs.

The water of all mineral springs in Vila Darreh village is the same in terms of chemical compounds and they are similar to the components of Gasha Sadian and the San Galimeh mineral springs in France.

The water of Vila Darreh mineral springs includes Bicarbonate, Calcium, Sodium and they are cold. One of the advantages of these mineral water springs is its effect on body tissues. The water of

these springs eases inflammation of tissues through the tiny pores in the skin which transfer the water to the body cells inside. Another effect of these springs is on livers. The water of these springs is easily absorbed by the liver due to having special minerals and provides cure..

Vakil Abad village is located 25 km northwest of Ardebil. The most important and famous mineral water spring in this region is Sardabeh where the water temperature is as high as 35 centigrade. Just a bit high above Sardabeh, there are 6 springs in the mountainous area of Haft Block. The climate in Sardabeh is very pleasant and it is

very cold in summer and its foodstuffs, particularly dairy products, meat and honey are famous. The natural and unique environment of the region is very interesting for tourists.

There are 9 hot springs in Sarein, with 'Gavmish Golly' being the hottest, with water reaching 67 degrees, and turning out around 80 liters per second from the source. There is also several cold water springs nearby, with the most popular being situated in a small village nearby called 'Vila Darreh' - the water here is fizzy and is very good for the kidneys.

The climate is by far a great asset, and many Iranians from

Tehran and other big cities escape to the tranquility and good weather that Sarein has to offer.

Some of Sarein Springs are:

- Qarah Soo (A'saab) Thermal Spring – Relieving
- Sari Soo Thermal Spring – Relieving
- Gavmish Golly Thermal Spring - Relieving and good for Rheumatism
- General Thermal Spring - Good for Joint Pains
- Besh Bajilar Thermal Spring - Good for Joint Pains
- Qahveh Suei Thermal Spring - Good for Joint Pains
- Pehenlu Thermal Spring - Relieving.
- Sarein is also famous for its 'Ashe Doogh' (Yogurt





Soups), during the busy summer periods, it is not uncommon for many of the local shops to be seen selling and preparing this soup.

- Hot springs (spa) have always been in Sarein, but the 1990s earthquake caused some of them to get colder or hotter. The water is heated largely by the Sabalan Mountain which is one of Iran's highest mountain.

- Sarein is also very famous for its honey, again like the soup, many of Serein's shops sell honey which is produced locally by the Bee keepers of the area.

- The native language of Sarein is the Azeri dialect, however Persian is understood and official language.

Sabalan Spa: This complex has two separate parts for men and women and has the approximate capacity of 600 persons in each working shift. It is one of the most unique hot mineral water hydrotherapy units of its kind in Asia,

built with many facilities near Laleh Hotel in Sarein, and shines like a gem in the city.

Among the facilities of this complex, three indoor pools, individual tubs, pressurized pools, dry and steam sauna, a medical room, massage therapy and physiotherapy facilities, beautiful green area, a big parking lot and sports shop in the complex, can be mentioned.

Endeavors in obtaining guest satisfaction and their

mental and physical health are goals of this complex.

"Laleh International Hotel Group" tries hard to provide high quality services to ensure the satisfaction of its guests, and in this regard it is committed to move toward issues such as the quantitative development of recreational and hospitality capacities, the increase of units, constant progress and the quantitative and qualitative development of services, promoting the level of human resources through continuous training and close monitoring, observing the rules and regulations and making good use of the standards recognized by the tourism industry.

Laleh International Hotel Group remains beside you in creating sweet memories and unforgettable moments during your trip



Parliament Speaker:

Iran Ready to Attract Foreign Investments



(FNA) - Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani underlined Iran's readiness for accepting foreign investments after the nuclear agreement was signed between Tehran and the six world powers (the US, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany) in July 2015.

"The grounds are prepared for foreign investment inside Iran following the nuclear agree-

ment," Larijani said, addressing a joint meeting between Iranian parliament and government officials in Tehran on Sunday evening.

The Iranian parliament speaker, meantime, called for coordination between the Iranian government and the parliament to pave the way for such investment.

Larijani reiterated the need for the other side's commitment to

the removal sanction imposed against Iran, and said, "The issue is being followed up on by the senior officials, specially Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, but more effective measures maybe needed to remove sanctions."

In a relevant development on Saturday, President Rouhani underlined that the guidelines of Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali

Khamenei helped the country's negotiating team to strike a nuclear agreement with the world powers back in July 2015.

"If there were not the Supreme Leader's guidelines and resolute supports my government and negotiating team would have faced many problems in striking the JCPOA deal," President Rouhani said in an Iftar (fast breaking meal) ceremony attended by senior officials in charge of JCPOA implementation in Tehran.

He said that the pre-JCPOA era is bygone now and government and everyone should think about that how they can make use of the atmosphere of post-JCPOA in line with national interests more than before.

President Rouhani underlined that the JCPOA was the cheapest way to achieve the objectives, and said, "There has been no way other than JCPOA to achieve such goals so quickly."

Ayatollah Khamenei warned the US presidential candidates to watch their mouth when speaking of the Vienna nuclear deal, stressing that Tehran will also ditch the agreement if future White House leaders show disrespect and discard it.

"We do not violate the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action also known as the nuclear deal), but if the opposite party violates it and tears it apart as the

US presidential candidates state and threaten at present, then we will burn it," Ayatollah Khamenei warned during his remarks at a meeting with the heads of the three branches of power, high-ranking officials and different government bodies and armed forces on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan here in Tehran.

The Iranian leader's warning is deemed as a general message to the political brass in Washington, but seems to be more addressed to the US presidential candidate, Donald Trump. The totally estrange presidential nominee has repeatedly warned that he would tear apart and discard the nuclear deal with Iran on day one of office if he is ever elected, while his Democrat rival Hillary Clinton has said that she would remain loyal to the deal although she has vowed to be tough on Iran.

The Iranian leader further blasted the US for hypocrisy in return for Iran's honesty, saying, "As regards the JCPOA, the opposite party has defied its duty that has been removing the sanctions, the problem with the banks has not yet been resolved, the oil tankers insurance is done at a limited scope, the crude revenues and our money that are in other countries are not given back to us and the Americans have not fulfilled a major

part of their undertakings, while we have done our part and shut down the 20-percent enrichment at Fordo (nuclear enrichment facility) and Arak (heavy water reactor)."

He also warned that the hostilities between Tehran and Washington would not end as the US is resolved to topple the Islamic Republic. "It is wrong to assume that we can come along with the US, this is wrong and we cannot rely on illusions as their issue is with the life and essence of the Islamic Republic and this cannot be resolved through negotiations."

Yet, Ayatollah Khamenei reiterated that the arrogant party seeking continued animosity is not Tehran, but Washington that wants regime change in Iran.

"Some imagine that hostilities are the result of our belligerence towards the US; (then if that's true) what has the Islamic Republic done to France? Why did France play the bad cop in the nuclear talks and why are the Netherlands and Canada showing enmity (towards Iran)," the Supreme Leader asked.

The US has been lagging in implementation of the last July nuclear deal with Iran. Months after the implementation of the nuclear deal, Iran is complaining that the US has not shown its loyalty to the agreement in action.

Iran condemns US political abuse of banking system for pressure



Iran's UN Ambassador Khoshroo has condemned recent US court ruling to seize assets of Iran as a clear example of abusing banking and financial networks for fake and unsubstantiated claims to pressure its nation.

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Gholamali Khoshroo made the remarks in his statement before the General Assembly on Agenda item 117 on "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy".

[Full text of his statement is as follows:](#)

In the Name of Allah, the

Compassionate, the Merciful
Mr. President,

I would like to begin by commending Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives of Iceland and Argentina and their colleagues for the hard work of facilitating the text of the fifth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

As we convene today to commemorate the 10th an-

niversary of the adoption of the CT strategy, and since two years ago when we adopted the last review in 2014, tens of thousands of innocent civilians including women and children have fallen victim of terrorism worldwide. On the other hand, the number of foreign terrorist fighters has come to the highest record number of 31,000 individuals that pose a serious threat to the international and regional peace and secu-

rity. There are still millions of people living under terrorists' domination in Iraq and Syria. Terrorism is a multi-dimensional issue and it can only be defeated if a comprehensive plan in place is implemented by various relevant stakeholder in a coordinated manner. There should also be certain level of cooperation among all actors genuinely committed to fight terrorism particularly at the regional level. The strategy provides such common platform for cooperation.

Mr. President,

This year we have before us the Plan of Action presented by the Secretary-General, which is also in response to the request made through "the World against Violence and Violent Extremism" or "WAVE" resolution initially proposed by President Rouhani that was adopted by consensus on 18 December 2013. President Rouhani initiated this idea while foreseeing the process of radicalization of extremist elements in the region and beyond, leading to more violence and terrorism.

Violent extremism is the most critical challenge that the world is currently facing. It is evident that the Takfiri ideology, which has nothing to do

with Islam, lies at very core of the predicament of our time. The international community needs, first and foremost, to focus on this vicious ideology that seek to instill hatred and anger in the hearts and minds of the youth everywhere in the world. Al-Qaeda and the Taliban are the first so-called "achievement" of extremist ideology, and ISIS and al-Nusra and its affiliates are the latest.

As the consequence of extremist ideologies held by Takfiri groups, thousands of individuals from over a hundred countries have joined ISIS and Al-Qaeda and their affiliated networks mainly in Syria and Iraq committing terrorist and other heinous inhumane acts, threatening security, stability and well-being of the societies where they operate. We could have avoided the current situation should we had addressed this phenomenon apart from any political or short sighted considerations soon in advance.

That is why we should focus on prevention and address the conditions conducive to violent extremism and terrorism and in this regard we welcome our debate this year on addressing the provision of the

UN Plan of Action on preventing violent extremism. It is imperative that Member States strive to also create their own national plans dealing comprehensively with all drivers leading to violent extremism including through countering extremist narratives that aim to incite mainly young individuals to violence and terrorism.

Mr. President,

For decades a number of root causes and factors have led or contributed to the spread of terrorism. Unlawful use of force against other States, foreign aggression and occupation as well as foreign interference in internal affairs of other States are among such causes and factors to name a few. Moreover, excessive and disproportionate use of military force in the name of countering terrorists creates fertile ground for vicious cycles of violence and terrorism.

We are of the view that countering terrorism should be done in full conformity with the United Nations Charter, international law, international human rights and humanitarian law. Use of force in combating terrorism by outside forces without the explicit consent of the state concerned would

constitute a flagrant violation of the principle of sovereignty and territorial integrity, which in its turn would endanger rule of law at the international level.

Iran opposes any attempt to equate the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation, for self-determination and national liberation, with terrorism. Such equation is aimed at prolonging occupation of the territories and oppression of their people. The use of State power for suppression and violence against peoples struggling in opposition to foreign occupation and in exercising their inalienable right to self-determination should continue to be condemned. My delegation rejects accusations made by representative of the Israeli regime, which itself was built on the basis of intimidation, terror and occupation. This regime is well known as the single most significant practitioner of "state terrorism" responsible for many terrorist acts. Its atrocities against Palestinian people over so many decades have fueled extremism and other crises in our region and beyond.

Mr. President,

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been the target of terrorist acts under different forms and manifestations, including State sponsored terrorism for the entire post-revolution era. We have a high regard for the large number of Iranian victims of terrorism, almost 17,000 individuals, affected by numerous terrorist attacks over the last 36 years. The Government has taken all possible measures to address their needs and concerns properly in close cooperation with the relevant civil society organizations.

We strongly reject the unilateral preparation of lists accusing other States of so-called "sponsoring terrorism" and any consequences thereof, which is inconsistent with international law and is merely exploited as a political tool to advance other agendas and political goals of enlisting governments. Such unilateral acts including through misusing of judicial means, would not only violate certain principles of international law but also undermine urgently required joint efforts by all States to counter terrorism. The recent political decision of the US courts to seize properties of the Central Bank of Iran is a clear example of abusing banking and finan-

cial networks for fake and unsubstantiated claims to pressure our nation. The Iranian Government is committed to use all possible means at its disposal, including recourse to the International Court of Justice to recover its properties illegally seized by the US authorities.

We must recognize that selective or double standards and simply categorizing good and bad terrorism based on the short term political interests would not help us to uproot terrorism. Such wrong approaches could only undermine international trust and cooperation in countering terrorism. The international community should have a unified approach in fighting this scourge in an indiscriminate manner. As we have successfully accomplished the fifth biennial review of the Strategy these days, we must carefully follow national, regional and global plans to implement the Strategy in a comprehensive way, with the cooperation of all, in a balanced manner, with sufficient attention to the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism while avoiding double standards and discrimination for better and lasting results.

I thank you.

Iran's National Botanical Garden

piece of heaven on earth



If you are a nature lover and like seeing the world's whole nature only in three hours, Iran's National Botanical Garden is a must to see.

'You can see all nature's variety here!' This is what guides of Botanical Garden say to the astonished visitors.

Founded in 1968, National Botanical Garden of Iran

is located by the side of a highway between the capital, Tehran, and the city of Karaj.

Although made around 40 years ago, the Garden was open to public in recent years.

The place is planned to be the main center for horticulture and plant taxonomy in Iran with area of about 150

hectares.

The Garden is home to 3000 species of plants, shrubs and trees. Throughout a full visit around the wonderful garden you can see different species of plant. *Gaillardia grandiflora*, *Lonicera japonica*, *Gleditsia caspica*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Atriplex canescens*, *Taxus baccata*, *Sorbus*

terminal, *Frangula alnus*, *Danae racemose*, *Quercus castaneifolia* subsp *undulata*, *Zelkova carpinifolia*, *Tilia platyphyllus*, *Ruscus hyrcanus*, *Tussilago farfara*, *Urtica dioica*, *Polystichum aculeatum*, *Cydonia oblonga*, *Albizia julibrissin*, *Gleditschia caspica*, to name a few.

The purpose of establishing the Botanical Garden was to produce a collection of native and non-native plants outdoors or in greenhouses.

The Garden plays an important role in research field of Botany or plant sciences, horticulture, public education and making people aware of the importance and diversity of plants and the need for their protection.

The Botanical Garden is also a resource bank to protect genetically the endangered species from extinction.

National Botanical Garden of Iran can help researchers know about the country's plant species and determine the scope of their distribution through various scientific methods.

Research on methods of breeding of worthy species for protection is another issue to be addressed in the Garden.

On a weekend in April, I visited this park and truly it was the best time for visiting the big well maintained garden with charming atmosphere as well as calming environment.

In a three-hour tour inside the well-kept beautiful Botanical Garden you can see many plants and species from parts of the world are brought up here in different sections, including Aknorz, Caspian as well as non-Iranian parts like American, Japanese, European, Himalayan, and Caucasian parts.

Still under construction, the garden contains an arboretum, six lakes, hills to represent the Alborz and Zagros mountains and Himalayas, rock garden, a waterfall, a wetland, desert plants areas, a salt lake and a wadi, a river about 1 km long, systematic area, fruit garden, picnic area with some pavilions and other facilities. The botanical and horticultural library has more than 11,000 volumes.

Thanks to the country's research system, the beautiful place is considered without doubt one of the most important achievements in the field of natural resources.

Accordingly, Iran's powerful research system has brought together a collection of about 300 research-

ers in various fields related to natural resources and environmental sciences in this unrivaled complex and national treasure of Iran's National Garden, trying to take care of the live and unique museum of nature and at the same time make the students and those interested in nature and Botany more familiar with the advantages of Iran's plants.

In fact, while the annual visit of the UK Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, which is the world's second botanical garden, is close to 2 million, the number of people visiting the National Botanical Garden of Iran in Tehran is only 50 thousand each year.

Worse, the garden every year faces with the nightmare of funding to pay for treatment and maintenance of thousands of plant species.

All these issues perhaps are rooted in the way the spectacular complex deserves to be recognized to the people and the whole world, the place that is the result of efforts and expertise of a group of the most elite researchers and experts in the field of Botany, environmental design and related sciences to forestry and desert.

Short Economic News

Iran to defend holy shrines with all power

(MNA) – In a meeting of authorities and Islamic countries' ambassadors with Leader of Revolution, President Rouhani asserted that Islamic Republic of Iran will defend holy shrines with all power.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will not turn a blind eye to the issues around the world and will not stand idly by; we help the oppressed and defend the holy shrines, and are proud of this," said President Rouhani in meeting of authorities of the country and ambassadors of Islamic countries with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei.

"Unfortunately, we are facing killings and displacement in many Islamic countries," said President on Wednesday. "People in Iraq, Syria, Libya and other Islamic countries are mourning the death of their beloved ones while they should enjoy Eid al-Fitr with smiling lips."

"Today it should have become clear for the heads of all Islamic countries, even those



who have been in state of negligence, that terror and terrorism knows no certain boundary and nation and those who think fleetingly and wanted to use some groups as means should have understood that terrorism is a threat to the whole Islamic world," Rouhani asserted, expressing hope to see those countries form a real coalition to eradicate terrorism throughout the Islamic world.

Referring to unusual wages, the President said "government, along with the other two branches, is determined to address the issue along the

path of justice and the law, as stressed by the Leader, with other two branches' help".

He also mentioned that "government is carrying out prompt measures and will draft and submit a bill to the Parliament in this regard".

"We will reform the administrative system with people and Leader's support," continued President.

He also congratulated Eid al-Fitr to all Muslims around the world, ambassadors of Islamic countries, especially the Iranian nation and the Leader or Revolution.

British Petroleum Discusses Developing Iranian Oilfields

Serious negotiations are being held between the National Iranian Oil Company and British Petroleum for injecting investment and developing some Iranian oilfields, the deputy oil minister and head of NIOC said .

“The new round of talks revolves around expanding oilfields, implementing enhanced oil recovery methods in the oilfields and conducting research and development initiatives,” Rokneddin Javadi was also quoted as saying by Mehr News Agency.

Javadi noted that the oil giant has shown interest in developing a few oilfields in the Persian Gulf state.

Underscoring the fact that NIOC has signed neither memorandums of understanding nor contracts with the British enterprise, the official said, “Reaching an agreement with BP is not far-fetched if the two sides follow their negotiations.”

Asked about the time of reo-

pening the company’s office in Tehran, Javadi noted that BP is willing to reopen its office and plans have been made to make it happen in summer.

According to the official, there have been great changes in BP’s policies compared to the past as the oil giant’s officials have shown interest in transferring state-of-the art knowhow to Iran.

Confirming ongoing talks with several high-profile companies, including BP, to sell Iran’s crude, Mohsen Qamsari, director of international affairs at the National Iranian Oil Company said, “If talks with BP come to fruition, Iran will provide the much-needed oil for one of BP’s refineries in South Africa.”

According to Amirhossein Zamani-Nia, deputy for international affairs at the Oil Ministry, BP is looking for investment opportunities and partnership in Iran’s oil and gas projects which explains talks between NIOC and BP for settling Iran’s accumulated

long-awaited oil dues from Rhum gas field in the North Sea.

Iran and the UK have been cooperating in Rhum Gas Field in the North Sea since December 2005, when the field started pumping, until the imposition of the US-engineered sanctions. It led to a stoppage of gas production from the field in 2010.

Rhum Gas Field, which cost \$565 million to develop, is shared equally by British Petroleum and Iran.

As part of efforts to put British companies back on Iran’s business map, Lord Lamont, who chairs the British-Iranian Chamber of Commerce, discussed bilateral banking hurdles to facilitate the repayment of Iran’s blocked share from the gas field.

As a stepping stone to rekindle ties with the Middle East country, Royal Dutch Shell cleared its outstanding €1.77 billion (\$1.9 billion) debt to Iran for the crude oil it had

bought but was unable to pay due to financial restrictions.

A Shell spokesperson said in a statement last month the company is “interested in exploring the role Shell can play in developing Iran’s energy potential within the boundaries of applicable laws”.

London, April 9, IRNA – British Minister of State at the Department of Transport Robert Goodwill heading a delega-

tion is to arrive in Tehran for talks with the Iranian officials.

Iran’s Charge d’affaires Mohammad Hassan Habibollahzadeh told IRNA that the British official’s visit to Tehran aims to promote cooperation in infrastructure fields such as airport and aviation.

The British delegation is also interested to boost London-Tehran cooperation in the are-

na of transportation, railway and express trains, he said.

Habibollahzadeh further noted that the talks are in first stage to get acquainted with projects and exploring the grounds for mutual investment.

He said that British Business Minister Sajid Javid is slated to visit Tehran in May to help advance economic cooperation.

Iran Air, Boeing ink MoU on sales of airliner



(MNA) – An Mo for purchasing brand-new airplanes was signed between Iran Air and Boeing Aircraft manufacturing company.

Iran Air, branded as The Airline of the Islamic Republic of Iran, announced the news in a statement noting “following the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plane of Action (JCPOA), several giant aircraft manufacturers took extensive measures to establish an active

presence in the Iranian market which were accompanied with serious determination of the Minister of Roads and Urban Development Abbas Ahmad Akhundi for renovation of the country’s ageing fleet.”

Meanwhile, Iran Air (known as Homa) and Boeing reached a Memorandum of Understanding on sales of airliners after several rounds of negotiations during the visits to Tehran made

by representatives of the American company.

On the basis of the agreement, upon obtaining appropriate licenses by the two parties, a number of Boeing 737 Next Generation aircraft as well as 300ER and 900 models of Boeing 777 series will be purchased by The Airline of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the form of a Lease-Purchase Contract.

Finalization of the accord and its implementation are subject to receiving required licenses from the Iranian and American governments.

In February, the American company was granted approval from the US government to explore resuming sales to Iran after US sanctions were partially lifted in January following a deal on Tehran’s nuclear program.

CBI not to give away banking accounts info. to foreigners

TEHRAN, Jul. 05 (MNA) – Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) dismissed certain assumptions that the CBI would consign banking accounts and clients' information to the intl. money laundering body (FATF).

Valiollah Serif stressed that international banking transactions are not related to the JCPOA, adding "unfortunately, certain individuals hinder the correct implementation of measures by dispersing suspicions, particularly in regard to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)."

Seif went on to clear the misconception that the Central Bank of Iran would give away banking accounts and clients' information to the FATF, saying "our agreement with the FATF

is restricted to combating money-laundering and terrorist financing, and Iran itself decides what is defined as terrorism."

The Guardian Council has recently approved a bill on combating terrorist financing in a bid to clear the path for increasing Iran's credit status. Iran has voluntarily handed the anti-money laundering law to the International Money Fund (IMF), which according to Deputy Governor of the CBI Hamid Tehranfar "would alleviate many concerns of foreign banks for doing business with Iran."

The FATF (Financial Action Task Force), an international group that monitors money laundering worldwide, called for a one-year suspension of

some restrictions on Tehran on June 24, welcoming "Iran's adoption of, and high-level political commitment to, an Action Plan to address its strategic (anti-money laundering and anti-terror financing) deficiencies." Getting Iran off the FATF blacklist will provide a good opportunity for the country to normalize its banking industry.

Meanwhile, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in its latest report on countries' risk index, reported Iran's risk rating with one step improvement from 7 to 6. The countries' risk rating determines investment attraction limit, the cost of credit insurance and foreign financing.



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Laws & Regulations

IBCCIM & Foreign Investment in Iran



IBCCIM (Irano-British Chamber of Commerce, Industries & Mines) has been established solely for expanding economic activities in foreign trade, and assisting

in foreign investment in Iran and Britain. The basic objectives are:

Close cooperation with Iranian, and British officials, or-

ganizations, and institutions.

Collecting needed statistics, and commercial information needed by the Iranian, and British members.

Assisting in realization of

the views of the merchants, industrialists, and investors of both countries.

Study and identification of mutual investments.

Cooperation in establishing and managing exhibitions and assisting Iranian and British members interested in participation in exhibitions in both countries as well as other locations.

Preparation and promotion of the exchange of commercial delegations – investment in both countries and establishment of contact between commercial activists of Iran and Britain.

Establishing conference, speech, and symposium for promotion of commercial relations of the two countries.

Cooperating and assisting British-Iranian Chamber of Commerce and other British Commercial Chambers.

Publishing information bulletins on economic laws and regulations of the two countries, as well as publishing and distributing newsletter, quarterly bulletin and establishing professional information sites.

Attempting to resolve differences resulting from com-

mercial associations between natural and legal Iranian and British parties through the Arbitration Center of the Iran Chamber.

Engaging in any activity needed to achieve the goals of establishing the chamber.

Benefits of Foreign Investment in Iran

A review of the geography of the region reveals the fact that Iran is located in the heart of the Middle East and Central Asia hosting nearly 400 million population.

If not 100 percent but nearly all the above mentioned population depend on importing their daily commodities. Considering geographical location, continental features, and infrastructure of Iran, such goods and services can be produced in Iran through direct foreign investment or partnership investment and distributed in the region.

The law of attraction and protection of Iran and the respective regulations (as specified below) provide numerous possibilities to foreign investors unmatched by other countries both in the region and even in the world.

These advantages are:

1- Possibility of direct investment in areas permitted for the public up to 100 %.

2- Possibility of indirect investment on contract basis using “Buy Back “, “BOT “, & “BOOT “& etc.

3- Short and quick process for the study and approval.

4- Availability of trained and young forces.

5- Availability of needed installations and communication facilities.

6- Low cost of production for manpower, water, electricity, gas, and petroleum.

7- Equal treatment of local and foreign investors.

8- Public acceptance of foreign investors be it non-Iranian natural or legal entities or Iranian nationals living abroad.

9- Tax exemption for all the exported commodities’.

10- Tax exemption for some regions in Iran.

11- Guarantee and protection of the principal and the interest, and the investment. Transfer of the funds by the Central Bank of Iran.

12- Numerous possibilities for investment including various mines 10 % of which are believed to have been identified and extracted.

Law of the attraction and pro-

tection of Foreign Investment in Iran

Ecasb.com 11/29/2008

The profits of foreign investment in Iran shall be partially or totally regarded as part of the original capital.

Article 1. The facilities mentioned within this law shall incorporate all the foreign individuals, companies and private institutions, having received the Iranian government's approval (under Article 2 below) to export their capital as cash, factory property, machinery, equipment, right invention, specialized services, etc., for the purposes of development and production, either in industrial, mineral, agricultural or transport activities.

Article 2. The incoming proposals shall be considered at the committee of the Bank Melli Iran, to be attended by the bank's president, deputy ministers of finance, industries and mines, foreign affairs, commerce, chief or deputy chief of the Plan and Budget Organisation, president or vice-president of the Tehran Commerce Chamber, and the chief of the Foreign Exchange Commission of the Bank Melli.

The decisions of the committee will be brought up at the cabinet by the minister of commerce for approval.

The cabinet will give top priority to proposals concerning investment in other provinces.

Article 3. The capitals imported under Article 1 into Iran and their profits shall be covered by the law. The foreign corporations and investments shall enjoy all the facilities, rights and exemptions offered to domestic manufacturing, private corporations and investment.

If a saw expropriates a capital owner of his ownership right, the government shall fairly compensate for the losses, provided that the applicant submits his request within three months to the committee under Article 2. Any difference over the compensation of the loss shall be settled at the authorized Iranian Courts. In such cases, the government may ignore the Article 5 to authorize transfer of capital to the overseas.

Note 1: The law of the ownership of real estate by foreign nationals, passed on 6 June 1931, shall hold good.

Note 2: The individuals,

private companies and institutions mentioned in Article 1 may not transfer their rights or shares to their corresponding governments or other states.

Article 4: The capital owner may withdraw profits of his capital each year up to the ceiling asserted in the regulation.

Article 5: The capital owner may withdraw the original capital or its profits three months after issuing a public note to the committee under Article 2, in line with provisions passed in July 1944 by the International Monetary Fund. The capital owner must keep at least 10 per cent of the original capital for six months in Iran for the settlement of likely obligations.

Article 6: The law extends permit of operation to the institutions and nationals of the countries in which the Iranian nationals and institutions can work freely.

Article 7: The government should draw up and suggest the necessary regulations to the relevant commissions of the assemblies for approval.

to be continued...

IBCCIM's New Members

Member Companies:

Petro Azar Shid Co.: Producing Petrochemical Products, M.D.: Rahim Foukerdi, Address: postal Code: 5614751986, Morvarid Official Building, Imam St., Ardebil, Tel: + 98 (21) 44017558-9, Fax: + 98 (21) 44017505, Email: r.foukerdi@gmail.com .

Zamyad Co.: Producing Automobile, M.D.: Rereidoun Hamini, Address: postal Code: 1386183741, Zamyad Co., 15 Kilometers of Karaj Road, Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 44922911-20, Fax: + 98 (21) 44922012, Email: info@zamyad.co.ir .

Lastic Sazi Gilan Co.: Producing Rubber, M.D.: Naser Nabipour Jafarabad, Address: postal Code: 1533955611, Third Flour, No. 13, Davazdahom Alley, Eshghyar St., Apadana St., Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 88520917, Fax: + 98 (21) 88520915, Email: n.nabipour@gilanrubber.com .

Karian Hamrah Co.: Cellphone, M.D.: Ali Ashghar Kaviani, Address: Postal Code: 1433885146, No. 2209, Opposite Simorgh Hotel, Upper than Beheshti St., Vali-e-Asr St., Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 2323, Fax: + 98 (21) 88710068, Email: a.kaviani@karianhamrah.com .

Matmaa Co.: Mineral Industries, M.D.: Sadjad Ghoroghi, Address: Postal Code: 19575651, No. 19, Eighth Kouhestan, Dibaji Jonoubi, Farmaniyeh, Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 26119280-3, Fax: + 98 (21) 22286188, Email: ceo@matmaa.com .

Toseeh Bazargani Akhavan Jam Co.: Kitchen appliance manufacturer, M.D.: Mohsen Akhavan Jam, Address: Postal Code: 1658988411, No. 11, West Yekom St., Abali Road, Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 77337273, Fax: + 98 (21) 77335283, Email: ceo@matmaa.com .

Iman Sun Ltd. Co.: Oil, Gas, Petrochemical Equipment, M.D.: mohammad Jafar Imanbeigi, Address: 27, Old Gloucester St., London, WC1 N 3 AX, United Kingdom, Tel: + 44 (203) 8070138,

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Aalitahrir Parsian Co.: Stationery supplies, M.D.: Mehrdad Aalipour Herisi, Address: postal Code: 1541947433, Flat No. 10, No. 1, Hoshyar dedend, Seyed Khndan Bridge, Shariati St., Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 23527, Fax: + 98 (21) 23527, Email: aalipour@panter.ir .

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Darman Yab Darou Co.: Medicines and medical equipment, M.D.: Seyed Mostafa Hosseini, Address: Postal Code: 1437634561, No. 36, Azadegan Intersection, Bistom St., ordestan St., Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 87174, Fax: + 98 (21) 88355903, Email: info@darmanyab.com .

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Key Economic Indicators

Population and Labor Force (1394)

Population	78.8 million
Urban	57.3 million
Rural ¹	21.4 million
Population Growth	1.2 percent
Population Density	47.8 per sq km
Active Population (1394, Q3)	24.7 million
Unemployment Rate (1394, Q3)	10.7 percent
Urban	11.7 percent
Rural	8.1 percent
Male	9.0 percent
Female	18.9 percent
15-29 years old	22.7 percent
15-24 years old	25.4 percent

Source: Statistical Center of Iran (SCI).

¹ Includes non-resident population.

External Sector (million US\$) (1394, nine months)

Current Account Balance	9,953
Trade Balance (goods account)	11,801
Exports (FOB)	50,384
Imports (FOB)	38,583
Total External Debt (end of period)	5,675
Exchange Rate (US\$/IRR)	
Interbank Market (average)	Rls. 29,386

Monetary Sector (growth rate, percent) (Azar 1394 compared with Esfand 1393)

Liquidity (M2)	18.3
Money (M1)	-4.1
Quasi-money	22.3
Non-public Sector Deposits	19.8

Real Sector (1393)

GDP Growth (1383=100)	
Oil	3.0 percent
Non-oil	2.8 percent
Performance of 1393 (current prices; billion Rls.)	
GDP (at basic price)	10,807,477
Gross Fixed Capital Formation	2,886,932
Private Consumption Expenditures	5,586,451
Public Consumption Expenditures	1,181,023

Government Fiscal Position (trillion Rls.) (1394, Q3)

Revenues	242.5
Expenses	358.5
Disposal of Non-financial Assets	173.9
Acquisition of Non-financial Assets	77.5
Net Lending/Borrowing	23.0

Changes in Consumer Price Index (CPI) of Goods and Services (1390=100)

Twelve months ending Azar 1394 compared with same period previous year (inflation rate)	13.7 percent
Azar 1394 compared with previous month	1.3 percent
Azar 1394 compared with same month previous year	9.4 percent

Tehran Stock Exchange (1394, Q3)

Tehran Stock Exchange Price Index (TEPIX) (end of period)	61,518.5
Value of Shares and Rights Traded	Rls. 46.9 trillion
Number of Shares and Rights Traded	26.5 billion

Source: CBI