

Happy Nowruz

Congratulations to all Iranians, especially to the esteemed members of the Chamber and all the subscribers to our quarterly magazine on the upcoming occasion of this years' Nowruz Festivities.

Nowruz is an unrivaled ancient celebration established by our ancestors to commemorate the spring equinox with a renewal of hope and the aspiration of peace and friendship amongst humanity throughout the world free of violent and inhumane behaviors.

In anticipation, I hope that the coming new year will be one of a positive change from the current devastating indecent behaviors all over the world and in our region; a year of happiness; a year towards prosperity for all; a historical year of a lasting turning point for the improvement of governing conditions; and a year of distinction for Iran as a true harbinger of lasting peace and friendship in history.

Dr. Amir Houshang Amini

Iran's foreign trade During the ten month of year 1395

(20 March 2016 to 20 January 2017)

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

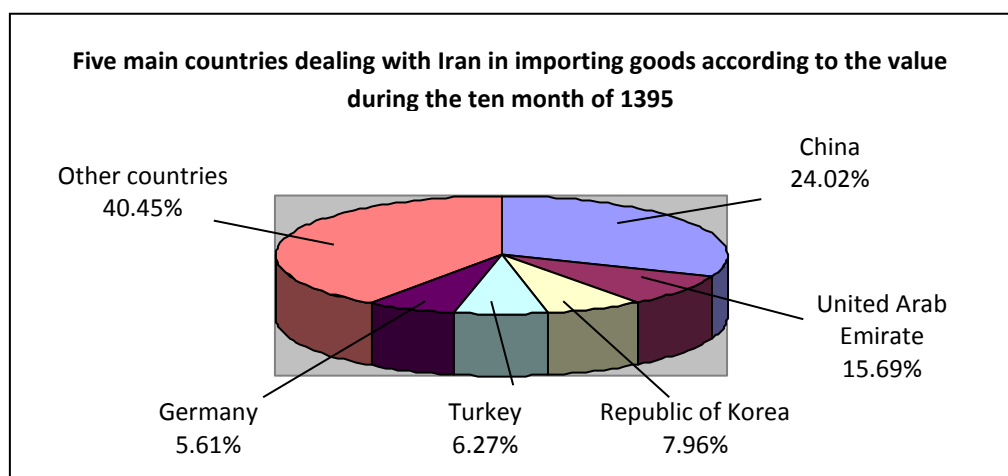
Primary import/export statistics of non-oil goods with the calculation of gas's liquidities during the first ten month of 1395

activity	ten month of the year 1395		ten month of the year 1394		Percentage of changes	
	Weight (Thousand Ton)	value (Million Dollar)	Weight (Thousand Ton)	value (Million Dollar)	weight	Dollar
Export	27.555	34.982	28.370	33.892	-2.87	3.21
Import	102.043	35.270	76.288	32.546	33.76	8.37

Imports:

During the ten month of 1395, the most value and weight of imports, at the first rank is "Livestock Corn" with 1.161 million dollars and a value of 3.32 percent.

The most important imports during the ten month of 1395, have been done with countries, as follows: 1) "China" with 3.607 thousand tons and 8.403 million Dollars and 13.09 percent of weight and 24.02 percent of value, 2) "United Arab Emirates" with 4.203 thousand Tons and 5.488 million Dollars and 15.25 percent of weight and 15.69 percent of value, 3) "Republic of Korea" with 1.202 thousand tons and 2.786 million Dollars and 4.36 percent of weight and 7.96 percent of value, 4) "Turkey" with 1.324 thousand tons and 2.193 million Dollars and 4.81 percent of weight and 6.27 percent of value and 5) "Germany" with 844 thousand tons and 1.962 million Dollars and 3.06 percent of weight and 5.61 percent of value.



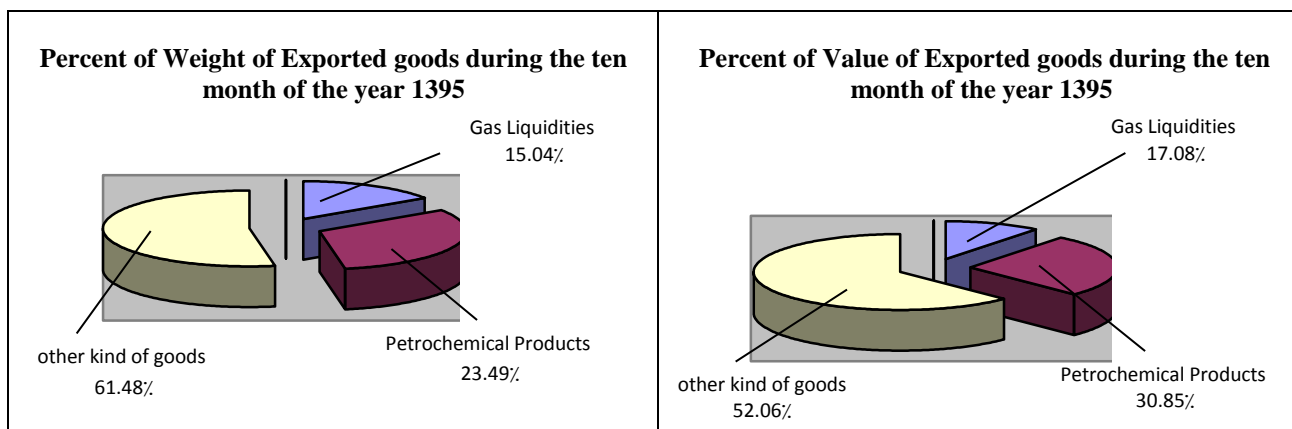
Exports:

During the ten 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	Ten month of 1395				Ten 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		
Petrochemical Products	23.966	10.880	23.49	30.85	18.531	10.691	24.29	32.85	29.33	1.77
Gas Liquidities	15.350	6.026	15.04	17.08	8.283	3.787	10.86	11.64	85.32	59.10
Natural Gas	8.832	1.952	8.66	5.53	5.817	2.139	7.62	6.57	51.84	-8.77
other kind of goods	53.894	16.412	52.82	46.53	43.657	15.929	57.23	48.94	23.45	3.03
Total	102.043	35.270	100	100	76.288	32.546	100	100	33.76	8.37

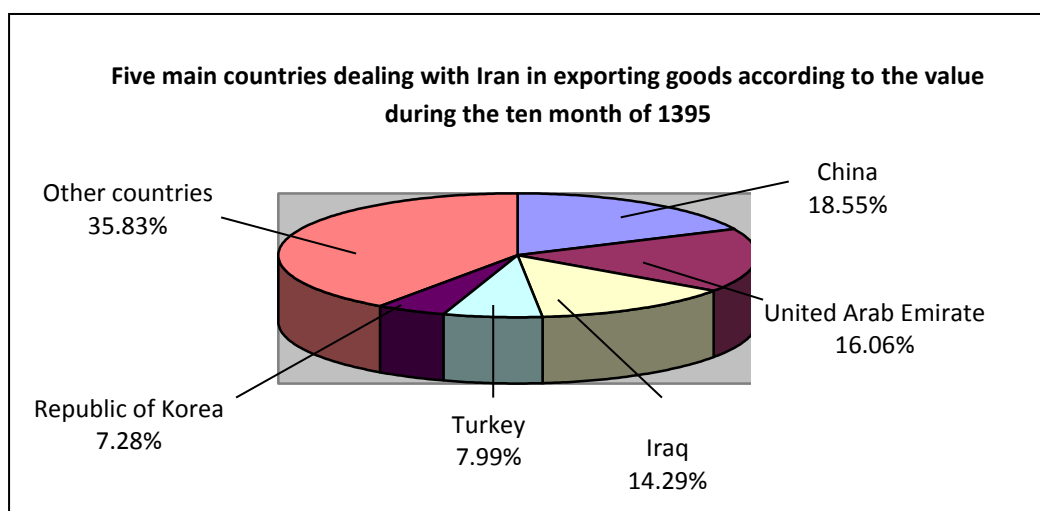
As indicated in the table, export has increased 33.76 percent of weight and 8.37 percent in value of Dollar.



During the ten month of 1395, 5.665 million Dollars and 13.43 percent of weight and 16.06 percent of value, and 9.35 percent of weight and 7.99 percent of value, and most of exports have done with the countries, as follows:

1)"China" with 28.937 thousand tons and value of 6.543 million Dollars and 28.36 percent of weight and 18.55 percent of value, and 5)"Republic of Korea" with 5.940 thousand tons and value of 2.567 million dollars and 5.82 percent of weight and 7.28 percent of value.

2)"United Arab Emirate" with 13.708 thousand tons value of 5.039 Million Dollars and 11.80 percent of weight and 14.29 percent of value , 4)"Turkey" with 9.537 thousand tons and value of 2.817 million Dollars



Average price of each ton of exported goods has been 346 Dollars which compared with similar period in last year, has been decreased 18.97 percent in value of dollar.

Pres. Rouhani:

Iran to play more active role in Asian collaborations



TEHRAN, Oct. 10 (MNA) – Speaking at the 2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue Summit on Mon. in Thailand, President Rouhani stressed Iran's aim to play a more active role in the Asian-European transportation network and become a new hub in rail, air and sea transportation in West Asia.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani addressed the second Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) summit in Thailand on Monday, saying "Asia's power is dependent on self-confidence and a shared will for convergence."

The President's full address before the ACD Summit is as follows:

In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful
Your Excellency, Mr. Prayut Chan-o-cha,

Distinguished Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand

Distinguished Heads of State or Government

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to thank the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for hosting the Second Summit of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) as well as for the warm and cordial hospitality extended to my delegation and me. I hope that our constructive discussions and exchange of views could lead to further strengthening and promotion of this forum as one of the most important Asian fora.

I am pleased to speak in a forum, which is able to put our ancient continent on a path of increased success under the theme, "One Asia, Diverse Strengths" and work towards building an Asian community on the basis of the ACD Vision for Asia Cooperation 2030 as the common goal of all its members. It will be able to achieve this goal by collectively pursuing its overarching objectives of dialogue for cooperation in Asia, empowering communities through enhancing

security, expanding education, reducing poverty, decreasing inflation, promoting the role of women in managerial positions and addressing environmental issues throughout Asia in an effective and extensive manner.

Today, all acknowledge that no global issues could be addressed without close cooperation of Asian powers. Asia plays a pivotal role in global efforts aimed at resolving such major issues as climate change, environmental crisis, social problems, including refugees, illiteracy and poverty; and the role of Asian states in promoting collective security is indispensable.

Asia's power is dependent on self-confidence and a shared will for convergence. We must open our markets, engage in greater economic interaction, start domestic structural reform, move towards greater transparency and engage in extensive coordination on setting policy; and by doing so, take long

strides to improve the quality of life for our citizens and elevate the standing of Asia on the world stage. Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The long and rich history of Asian civilizations is a priceless heritage. Greater contact and cohesion between our nations translates into greater cultural growth, which is vital for the long term security and stability of the continent.

Iran is an integral part of Asia and a gateway that connects East to West. We have our roots in Asia and our history, culture and arts have been shaped by this ancient continent. We are committed to remain with Asia and continue to define our identity as Asians.

Deeply aware of the imperative of maintaining security and stability in Asia, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that violence and extremism represent the most challenging crisis that has engulfed the whole Asian Continent from Tokyo to New Delhi and from Baghdad to Damascus to Istanbul. The security of the east and the west of this continent is indivisible; and the intervention and interference of big powers in both ends of Asia constitutes a major threat for all of us. Today, Iran stands up as a strong bulwark against the expansion and infiltration of extremism and terrorism in this extended region and reiterates that the illegal intervention has fueled violence and atrocities. One cannot talk about security and work towards cohesive development, while ignoring terrorist atrocities in Iraq and Syria, or remaining indifferent to the bombardment of defenseless women and children in Yemen as well as brutal behaviors of the Zionist regime in Palestine. Asian spirit uses diplomacy and dialogue

as its main tools to resolve hostilities. In meeting the challenges before us, our forum must continue to use the same tools.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Having secured the historic nuclear accord, the Islamic Republic of Iran is eager to participate actively in the value chain as well as develop new markets and provide secure supply of energy and consequently play an even more active role in Asian collaborations. Blessed with a young and educated work force, extensive oil and gas reserves and an advantageous geographical position, Iran has aimed at an annual 8 percent growth rate. In addition, attracting more foreign investment is one of Iran's priorities. Therefore, we invite and welcome Asian investors and have prepared the ground for mutually advantageous projects. Due to the nuclear accord and the lifting of sanctions, Iran's economy is poised to experience considerable growth in the coming years. Geographical advantage, security, and considerable investment in rail, air and sea lanes have secured the position of Iran as a major international corridor. At the same time, the Islamic Republic of Iran aims to play a more active role in the Asian-European transportation network. By developing its capacities, Iran is seeking to become a new hub in rail, air and sea transportation in West Asia.

Excellencies,

As part of its main goals, the ACD works to expand cultural interaction and tourism among Asian communities. Again, drawing on its natural, cultural and historic attractions, Iran is trying to utilize its tourism industry as a main prime mover of the economy. Globally, a secure supply of energy is a major

challenge to sustainable development. Iran is ready – through multilateral investment schemes and the expansion of its natural gas sector – to increase the security of the energy supply in Asia and promote natural gas as a clean and alternative fuel that serves to improve the environment.

Excellencies,

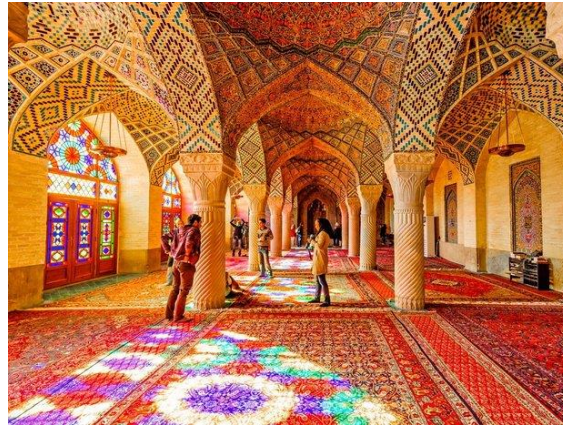
Security and stability are the prerequisites for development. At the same time, development is imperative for ensuring security and stability. Through comprehensive development, living conditions improve and cultural diversity – as well as the rights of fellow human beings – is respected. The ACD can help expand trade and economic cooperation and by connecting the east and west of Asia create a promising vision of peace, tranquility and stability throughout the continent; and by doing so create a better future for all inhabitants of Asia.

Excellencies,

The future of Asia belongs to our children and grandchildren, and its full blossoming depends on more stable and dynamic ties among the Asian nations. Cognizant of this, my administration is committed to expanding trade as well as scientific, cultural and technological ties between the Iranian nation and Asian communities and by doing so – as an influential member of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue — we will positively contribute to the ongoing efforts to transform this ancient continent to a powerhouse for global progress.

Thank you for your attention.

Iran's irresistible rise as tourist destination



TEHRAN, Jan. 24 (MNA) – Iran is proving to be an increasingly popular destination with air travelers, experiencing growing passenger numbers from around the world.

The upward trend in Iran's popularity among air travelers looks like continuing during 2017, according to a study by Forward Keys, the leading travel intelligence analyst. Total international arrivals were up 18.3% last year, sustaining

an upward path since 2013 (up 2.7%), 2014 (24.8%) and 2015 (12.7%). The pattern is reflected by a consistent year-on-year increase in total scheduled seats: 2014 (up 10.5%), 2015 (18.3%), 2016 (17.3%).

The study is timely, coming just weeks ahead of the inaugural Iran Hotel & Tourism Investment Conference (IHTIC) on 7-8 February 2017 in Tehran, which will be attended by numerous

international investors and hotel industry experts.

Forward Keys, which monitors future travel patterns by analyzing 16 million flight reservation transactions each day, also found that international arrivals to Iran saw positive monthly growth throughout 2016, with the exception of June because of the timing of Ramadan.



The main source regions for air travel to Iran are North America, Europe and the Middle East. Together, they made up 83.7% of international arrivals during 2016. Germany, with a 14.3% market

share, was up 8.3%, followed by the USA (10.7% share) up 9.3%. Bahrain, Canada and the UK, all with significant market shares, also showed healthy growth in visitors to Iran.

Among the 12 top origin countries, only China and Pakistan were outside these main regions. ForwardKeys' data also shows that 40% of Chinese visitors to Iran last year were on business trips.



Looking ahead, forward bookings, which means bookings already made for future travel, for the first half of 2017 are ahead 14.8%, based on those issued at the beginning of January, suggesting the upward surge of international visitors to Iran is still growing in momentum.



Arrivals in Iran during 2017 are being boosted by increased air connectivity from a number of centers one being that Italy is benefiting from Alitalia and Iran Air tripling their scheduled seats since

November last year. Also, the Netherlands is connected by one more daily flight from Amsterdam to Tehran by KLM since October 2016. Additionally, an increasing number of Belgian travelers are

using Amsterdam to transfer to Iran, while Swiss travelers tend to route via Vienna, from where Austrian Airlines is doubling its scheduled seats during the first half of 2017.

Highest Growth Origin Markets	%Var. of Total Arrivals OTB vs. Prev. Year	Average Length of Stay (Nights)	Average Pax per Booking (Persons)
Italy	+125.9%	9.9	8.1
Belgium	+81.3%	15.5	5.2
Pakistan	+74.2%	26.4	7.0
Switzerland	+34.9%	9.9	2.5
Netherlands	+32.7%	14.2	2.5

Olivier Jager, CEO of Forward Keys, said “our findings support the conclusion that political change in Iran is making the country more approachable, an attractive place to

visit and potentially do business. The image of Iran around the world is changing. Its many tourist attractions, historic, religious and spectacular, are once again being

emphasized. I expect visitor numbers to increase, so long as Iran’s airport capacity can keep pace.”

Qajar Painting Restored, Unveiled



Fat'h-Ali Shah is famous among Iranian for three things: his exceptionally long beard, his wasp-like waist and his multitude of progeny.



commissioned by one of Qajar King Fat'h-Ali Shah's (1772-1834) sons, Keykavous Mirza, has been restored. The mural was unveiled on Saturday at Tehran University's

summer retreat. The mural shows the Qajar ruler at one of his public levies, seated on a peacock throne and flanked by his progenies, princes, ministers and envoys.

The mural is said to be among the most valuable 'lineup' paintings that have survived from the Qajar era (1785-1925). For

TEHRAN, Mar. 05 (MNA) – "Safe-e Salam" (Greeting Queue), one of the most outstanding wall paintings of Qajar era, was unveiled in Negarestan Garden on Saturday evening. The painting depicts a greeting scene from the summer palace of Fath-Ali Shah Qajar. An 1832 mural by Qajar painter Mirza Mohammad Ali which was

Negarestan Museum Palace. Titled in Persian 'Saf-e-Salam-e Fat'h Ali Shah' (Greeting Lineup for Fat'h-Ali Shah), it was originally in Tehran's Negarestan Palace, founded by Fat'h-Ali Shah as a



several years the wall painting had been stored in 50 separate pieces for restoration.

Two years ago the mural was entrusted to the Tehran University for its restoration process. Now the restored work is back on the wall at Negarestan Museum Palace, ISNA reported.

The unveiling ceremony of the mural was attended by head of Tehran University Mahmoud Nili Ahmadabadi, art deputy at Culture Ministry Ali Moradkhani, researcher on old Tehran Abdollah Anvar, and painter Aydin Aghdashlou who was among the restoration artists.

In Bad condition

“The work was in such a bad condition that it seemed as if it had been hit by a rocket,” said Aghdashloo, 76.

“Natural decay, neglect and ignorance about its significance and value led to its deterioration.”

Aghdashloo has created many paintings in Qajar style, including ‘End of an Era’ (1980) and ‘Memories of Destruction’ (2008), both portraying Fat’h-Ali Shah who, according to American historian Joseph M. Upton, is famous among Iranians

for three things: his exceptionally long beard, his wasp-like waist and his multitude of progeny.

“The work was luckily saved by cultural officials,” Aghdashloo said.

“I took a good

look at it. The vibrant colors are a lively account of history. In repairing a painting, the entire work should not undergo restoration; its old and new parts should remain distinct.

The mural vividly represents human desire to evoke awe and respect among future generations. Fat’h-Ali Shah’s reign was the beginning of political decay, including the many weaknesses and his humiliating position against the Russians to whom he was forced to pay reparations. But it was an age of numerous majestic and glorious artworks.”

At the unveiling ceremony, Nili Ahmadabadi, head of Tehran University called the university a successor of Dar ul-Funun, the first modern institution of higher learning in Iran, established in



1851.

In the affairs of art and museum works, including those of affiliated institutes to the university such as Negarestan Museum Palace, Moqaddam Museum, and Molavi Theater, “our focus and attention has been more than what is expected from a university because we believe that Tehran University is one of the influential institutions in Iran.”

Financial constraints make the maintenance and management of Negarestan Museum Palace a difficult task for the university, “but it makes us proud that we haven’t evaded our responsibilities or efforts,” he added.

By: Shahab Ghayyoumi



Baugh-e Fin

(Fin Garden)

The unique ancient Persian garden



Unesco declared the garden a World Heritage Site on July 18, 2012

Fin Garden is located in Kashan,. is a historical Persian garden. It contains Kashan's Fin Bath, where Amir Kabir, the Qajar chancellor, was murdered by an assassin sent by King Naser-ed-din Shah in 1852. Completed in 1590, the Fin Garden is the oldest extant garden in Iran.

The origins of the garden may be anterior to the Safavid period; some sources indicate that the garden has been relocated from another place, but no clear picture of it has been found. The



settlements of the garden in its present form was built under the reign of Shah Abbas I (1571-1629), as a traditional bagh near the village of Fin, located a few kilometers' southwest of Kashan

The garden was developed further during the Safavid dynasty, until Shah Abbas II (1633-1666). It was highly recognized during the reign of Fat'h Ali Shah Qajar and was considerably expanded.

The property together with eight others across the country have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list under the title of "The Persian Garden."

The garden subsequently suffered from neglect and was damaged several times until, in 1935, it



The *Kushak* is located in the central part of the garden

was listed as a national property of Iran. On 2007, 8 September, Bagh-e Fin was submitted to the Unesco's Tentative List.

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

The garden covers 2.3 hectares with a main yard surrounded by ramparts with four circular towers. In keeping with many of the Persian gardens of this era, the Fin Garden employs a great many water features

These were fed from a spring on a hillside behind the garden, and

the water pressure was such that a large number of circulating pools and fountains could be constructed without the need for mechanical pumps.

The garden contains numerous cypress trees and combines architectural features of the Safavid, Zandiyeh and Qajar period

As mentioned designed for Shah Abbas I in the 16th century, this delightful garden with its symmetrical proportions, old cedars, spring-fed pools and fountains is renowned as being the very epitome of the Persian garden and its evocation of heaven. Given its influence in the planning of gardens as far afield as India and Spain, Fin Garden, which lies in the suburb of Fin, 9km southwest of central Kashan.

In contrast to the arid location, the garden flows with crystal-clear, warm water, channeled from a natural spring through a series of turquoise-tiled pools and fountains and continuing along the main road in *joobs* (canals, pronounced 'joobs'). The evergreen trees inside the garden are up to 500 years old, and the



Detail of the ceiling of the *Kushak*

profusion of complementary deciduous trees contributes to a garden that works to please year-round.

The highlights of the garden are two pavilions: the *shotor gelou*, a two-storey pool house with water running through the middle of the ground floor, and a recreational pavilion at the rear of the garden. Built in the later Qajar period, this delightful building sports an elaborate painted dome of outdoor vignettes (including a semi-naked beauty being surprised in the act of bathing). In the adjoining rooms, stalactite ceilings and coloured glass windows play a role in keeping visitors content with blue, white and green glass chosen to be cool and soothing and to make the room look bigger; in contrast, red, orange and yellow glass has the opposite effect, making the room seem warmer in winter. Interestingly, red and blue combined apparently confuses insects and wards off mosquitoes.

Many Iranians head to the *hammam* complex along one side of the garden, famous as the place where the nationalist Mirza Taqi Khan, more commonly known as Amir Kabir, was





murdered. Amir Kabir served as prime minister under Naser- ad-Din Shah. He was a modernizer who instituted significant change, especially in the fields of education and administration, but his popularity was not appreciated in the royal court and the shah's mother eventually persuaded her son that he had to go. Amir Kabir was imprisoned in Fin Garden and eventually murdered in the bathhouse, though some say he slashed his own wrists. Inside, mannequins posed in scenes from the drama form the backdrop of many a selfie taken by those coming to pay homage to a hero.

has some ceramics and calligraphy. A scale model of the



garden helps to show its perfect proportions from an aerial perspective.

Don't leave the garden without pausing at the Fin Garden teahouse, which is set within its own enchanted

little garden. Located near the source of the spring, the current is thick with warm-water-loving fish and shaded with aged trees. The teahouse specialty is Kashan barley soup in winter and rose-water ice cream in summer.

Fin Garden is located at the end of Amir Kabir Rd, which can be reached by shuttle taxi (from Kamal al-Molk Sq. or by taxi *darbast* (closed door;). Alternatively, you can hop on the green bus that travels from the

corner of Ayatollah Kashani and Baba Afzal St, in central Kashan with a pre-purchased card from the bus terminal. During the journey, keep an eye open for the elaborate modern Italianate houses that line the road near the garden, evidence that the location continues to attract fashionable Kashanis.



Source: Extract from Wikipedia and Iranian weekly n0.40/nov.2016

Iran Opening Its Doors to Russian Tourists



TEHRAN (FNA)- During the International Tourism Exhibition in Tehran, Iran and Russia signed a joint pact for 2016-2018 on the implementation of the intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in tourism. It is possible that in the future Iran may abolish visas for Russians as was earlier mentioned by the Ambassador of the Republic of Iran in Moscow, Mehdi Sanai.

Iran is a country rich in historical and cultural treasures, with first-class attractions in abundance. The ancient capitals Esfahan and Shiraz, the ruins of Persepolis, the center of Zoroastrianism — the city of Yazd, are just a few examples of the cities that will attract thousands of tourists in the near future, Sputnik reported.

Iran is home to 19 UNESCO-registered sites, including the ancient city of Bisotun.

The ancient Persian capital, Persepolis, was built by Persian emperors from Darius to Xerxes and construction stopped with the downfall of the Achaemenid dynasty. The earliest relics date back to 515 BC and it is considered an archaeological gem. Persepolis was declared a UNESCO Heritage Site in 1979.

Another city of interest for tourists is Esfahan. It is a city of beautiful Persian gardens, wide tree-lined streets and artisans working in open shops. It is one of the largest cities in the world, 211 miles south of Tehran, and it has been described as the pinnacle of Islamic art and architecture. The city is full of lavish palaces, mosques and historic buildings alongside elaborate gardens.

Tourists, who arrive to Iran, come to Tehran first. The city is

cosmopolitan with numerous museums, restaurants, parks and monuments depicting the rich history of the country.

The visitors who are interested in a beach holiday, after leaving Tehran can head to the resorts on the coast of the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea. The most developed beach resort at the moment is the island of Kish on the Persian Gulf coast. It has crystal clear water, soft sand, a mild climate and a number of fancy hotels making it a complete package for a wonderful holiday.

There is, however, one thing: the beaches in Iran are divided so they are separate for males and females. Those who wish to spend their vacation on Kish will have to adapt to the local tradition. The main points of attraction on the island are the

water parks, diving centers, an old Greek ship that had run aground and a network of Duty Free shopping centers. Persians are passionate about food and tourists will find dishes with a strong accent on rice, eggplant, grilled meats, pomegranate, walnuts, lime, prunes, cinnamon and saffron. Some of the most famous Iranian dishes are Fesenjan, a sublime stew of chicken or pheasant in a rich walnut and pomegranate sauce, Mast-o-Hier, brow-Horesh, brow-kebab. The dessert menu is no less diverse. Some of the most famous desserts include baklava, halva, raginak — sweets made of walnuts, lemon sorbet and Faludi which is a sort of vermicelli with finely crushed

ice, pistachio and lime juice. The variety of Iranian bread is so diverse that in the restaurant menus, bread appears as a separate list on the menu.

Iranians are very hospitable and friendly people. Helping a visitor is considered to be a responsibility. Traditional Iranian etiquette 'Taaruf' — means extreme attentiveness to others. They will listen and if they understand the visitor's English they will guide and help. For female visitors it is advised to wear clothes that cover the body in respect of the Iranian traditions, although that doesn't mean wearing a black niqab. In public transport, men and women sit separately. Such is the custom

and it should be treated with respect. The coaches in the subway are separate for male and female. Although the public transport is good quality, the most convenient and affordable transport in Iranian cities is by taxi. Iran is not as hot as its neighboring Arab countries. In Tehran the average temperature in July, which is the hottest month, is between +30 and +32 C, the average temperature of the coldest month, February is +3.

As far as security is concerned Iran is pretty safe. In the streets of Iranian cities one can walk without fear at any time of the day.



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Short Economic News

Monthly trade value in IME hits \$1,045mn

TEHRAN, Mar. 04 (MNA) – During February 2017, Iran Mercantile Exchange played host to trading of 1,943 thousand tons of various commodities worth over 1,045 million USD in spot and side markets.

According to the report from IME International Affairs and PR, 1,943 thousand tons of different commodities were traded in domestic and export trading floors including 1,115 KT of various commodities worth more than 556 million USD in oil and petrochemical trading floor, 727 thousand tons



of different products worth approximately 442 million USD in metals and minerals trading floor, and approximately 90 thousand tons of agricultural products worth 45 million USD in agricultural trading floor in the spot market.

Moreover, this month, the export trading floor witnessed trading of

243,310 MT of bitumen worth more than 73.3 million USD, 2,090 MT of insulation worth more than 770 thousand USD, 160,000 MT of iron ore worth approximately 8 million USD as well as 26,024 MT of sulfur worth over 1,161 thousand USD. In addition, IME experienced trading of 10,790 MT of products worth 3 million USD in its side market during the same month. It is worth noting, the derivatives market played host to the trading of 305,102 gold coin futures contracts worth over 1,303 million USD.

Kazakhstan to develop banking ties with Iran

TEHRAN, Mar. 03 (MNA) – The Vice-Governor of Iran's Central Bank for Foreign Exchange Affairs, Gholamali Kamyab, met with Kassymbek, the Kazakh Minister of Investment and Development on Thursday in Astana.

Gholamali Kamyab, the Vice-Governor of Iran's Central Bank for Foreign Exchange Affairs, who is visiting Kazakh capital city of Astana, met with Zhenis Mahmudovich Kassymbek, the



Minister of Investment and Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Thursday. The two sides stressed on developing banking

cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, Mr. Kassymbek described the Islamic Republic of Iran as a strategic partner of the Republic of Kazakhstan and underlined the will to remove the barriers obstructing development of bilateral ties especially in the areas of economy, trade, and banking.

Mr. Kamyab, who made the trip to Astana after the invitation of the Kazakhs, stressed on devising ways

to expand bilateral relations in areas of trade and currency transactions. He also highlighted the importance of doing banking balances in trade via the national currencies of the two countries.

The two sides agreed to follow up the proposals made and the solutions offered in the meeting through a joint commission of experts and banking officials from both countries.

Also, in the recent visit of President Rouhani to Astana in January, the two president agreed to eliminate the obstacles ahead of banking relation between the two countries.

Astara-Astara Railway begins trial operation

TEHRAN, Mar. 05 (MNA) – Concurrent with the visit of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev to Tehran, the 10-kilometer Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan) railway line project began its trial operation successfully on Sunday.

Following the visit of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev to Tehran and based on the two countries' resolve to implement bilateral agreements on connecting railway lines, the 10-kilometer Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan) Railroad, with some 8 kilometers falling to a share of Azerbaijan and two kilometers passing through the Iranian territory, came on stream for a trial operation on Sunday.

With the commissioning of this railroad as well as the completion of



Rasht-Astara railway line project, the Islamic Republic of Iran will be connected to Europe's rail network via Azerbaijan, and Azerbaijan will get direct access to the Persian Gulf. The railway will give both countries extensive opportunities for ample productive uses of transit and transport capacities, in a way that commodities will be easily transferred from Bandar Abbas through Azerbaijani territory to

Russia, as well as Scandinavian and European countries.

The project also includes the construction of a railroad bridge over the Astarachay River launched in April 2016 which forms the border between the two similarly-named towns of Astara in Azerbaijan and Iran.

Tehran and Baku have attached great significance to connection of their railroads as part of the North-South Transport Corridor, which is meant to connect Northern Europe with Southeast Asia. The corridor is planned to transport 6 million tons of cargo per year at the initial stage and 15-20 million tons of cargo in later stages.

Tehran, March 1, IRNA – Ways to expand scientific cooperation between Sharif University and France's scientific centers were considered in the presence of French envoy in Tehran on Wednesday.

In a meeting here, French Ambassador to Tehran Francois Senemaud and the Scientific and Technical Attaché of the French Embassy in Tehran Pierre-Andre Lhote discussed ways to expand cooperation between Sharif University and academic centers of France with Sharif University Chancellor Mahmoud Fotouhi



and director for international affairs Mohammad Movaqar.

A background of scientific cooperation between Sharif and French universities were presented in the meeting and ways to expand academic relations within the framework of joint courses, sabbatical leaves of Absence and exchange of professors and students.

Iran's tourism, historical centers charming: CNN

Tehran, March 4, IRNA – Iran has charming historical and tourism centers, the Cable News Network (CNN) in a report announced.

CNN released a Friday report on Iran tourism called 'Iran's Abbasi: The Middle East's most beautiful hotel.'

"Iran is trying to modernize its tourism industry in the face of increasing visitor numbers. 5.2 million came in 2016 and more are expected in 2017. Its more traditional offerings still have the potential to charm," the report reads.

"Isfahan has its fair share of historical wonders (some which are UNESCO World Heritage sites), but in many ways the Abbasi has become a tourist attraction in its own right."

"Built around 300 years ago, under the Safavid dynasty reign of Shah Sultan Husayn, it was originally used as a pit stop for



merchants traveling the ancient Silk Road."

"While the US still has its sanctions in place, a situation unlikely to change under new President Donald Trump, hotel groups headquartered outside America have already started to move in."

"The French Accor group became the first in 2016. Others are following, including the UAE's Rotana and Spain's Melia. It's expected that by 2018 Iran

will have six different international brands."

Isfahan is located on the main north-south and east-west routes crossing Iran, and was once one of the largest cities in the world. It flourished from 1050 to 1722, particularly in the 16th and 17th centuries under the Safavid dynasty, when it became the capital of Persia for the second time in its history. Isfahan is an important historical center for different groups of tourists in the domestic and international world. The central historical area in Isfahan is called Seeosepol. (the name of a famous bridge)

Iranians honored by 2017 Sony World Photography Awards

TEHRAN, Feb. 28 (MNA) – Two Iranian photographers have been honored in the world's largest photography competition – 2017 Sony World Photography Awards.

The judges of the 2017 Sony World Photography Awards honored on Tuesday the work of two Iranian photographers by shortlisting their work as top ten in the world in the awards' Professional and Open competitions. Judges were



looking for images representing the finest contemporary photography today. Danial Khodaie from Ahvaz, Iran, was shortlisted in the Contemporary Issues category of the Professional competition,

judged upon strong bodies of work between 5-10 images, and Saeid Moridi, from Bandar Abbas, Hormozgan, Iran, was shortlisted for a single image in the Open competition's Portraits category.

Khodaie's shortlisted series, 'dust invasion' reveals a huge environmental issue that has damaged the region of Khuzestan, Iran, since 2002, posing numerous health hazards for the local citizens and placing

Ahvaz, the capital of Khuzestan province, among the most polluted cities in the world. The increased desertification and the destruction of the Mesopotamian wetlands are some of the main factors causing the phenomenon of dust storms in Khuzestan, resulting to 22,000 people suffering from health problems.

Danial Khodaie, based in Ahvaz, Khuzestan, Iran, obtained his degree in Chemical Engineering from the Islamic Azad University of Mahshahr. In 2014 he joined the ISNA News Agency and in 2015 he started working at the FARS News agency as a photojournalist.

Talking about being shortlisted, Khodaie comments, "I have been witnessing the dust storm for many years now and I have seen people suffering from it. In 2015, I started a long-term project about the climate change and the pollution of the environment. I always wanted to show the whole world the human impact on earth. I'm so grateful to be shortlisted in the Sony World Photography Awards.



Thanks for giving me this opportunity." Moridi's shortlisted image 'Behind the Glass' is a beautiful portrait taken in a café in New Julfa, the Armenian quarter of Isfahan, Iran.

Born in 1994, Saeid Moridi is a self-taught photographer based in Bandar Abbas, Hormozgan, in Southern Iran. He discovered his passion for photography at a very young age and later on decided to pursue a professional career on photography.

Talking about being shortlisted, Moridi comments, "It is truly an honor to be shortlisted in the Sony World Photography Awards. I am especially grateful to both the World Photography Organisation and Sony for this amazing opportunity. I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to my family and friends whose continued support is the reason I am where I am today."

The photographers will now compete to win their categories and the prestigious Sony World Photography Awards' Photographer of the Year title. The Open category winners will be announced March 28, and the Professional category winners revealed at an awards ceremony in London on April 20. Prizes include the latest Sony digital imagery equipment, a trip to the



awards ceremony in London and \$30,000 US dollars in cash prizes.

The work of both shortlisted photographers will also be shown alongside the awards' other shortlisted and winning images at the Sony World Photography Awards & Martin Parr – 2017 Exhibition in London from April 21-May 7.

The judges of the Sony World Photography Awards also commended six Iranian photographers in the awards' Open competition. The photographers placed top 50 in the world for their images are: Ahmad Salehi, Culture category; Mehran Cheraghchi Bazar, Culture category; Milad Safabakhsh, Enhanced category; Mina Noei, Street Photography category; Mojtaba Nobakht, Portraits category; Poya Raissi, Still Life category.

Over 227,000 images from 183 countries were submitted to the 2017 Sony World Photography Awards. 49 nationalities are represented on the Professional, Open, Youth and Student Focus shortlist, with a further 11 nationalities commended.

Palmyra's World Heritage Site not damaged as feared

MOSCOW, Mar. 04 (MNA) – After months of occupation by ISIL terrorists, historians worried that Palmyra's ancient wonders had been completely destroyed, but the havoc is not as bad as was originally feared, according to Syria's antiquities chief.

"We thought the situation would be much worse," Maamoun Abdulkarim said Friday. The historian feared "that there would be eradication, that [Daesh] would complete their crimes from the first occupation."

With the support of Russian air force deployments and special forces, Syrian government soldiers retook Palmyra on Friday. "The city has been completely liberated. Syrian government troops have taken the dominant terrain to the north



and the south of Palmyra and are advancing eastward," said Lt. Gen. Sergei Rudskoi, chief of the Russian general staff main operational directorate. On Wednesday, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces recaptured a key strategic citadel in Palmyra, providing a firing range that caused terrorists to flee.

"We received terrifying information that there might have been a revenge crime against the entire citadel," Abdulkarim

noted. Instead, he said that the citadel had suffered "some damage" but "in general, the citadel is fine too." The antiquities expert said the state of the historic sites is more "reassuring" than had been expected.

A second-century Roman theater was also feared to have been destroyed. Syrians were "overwhelmed" by "a fear of complete explosion of the theater," he said. Instead, early imagery suggests that the wreckage may not be permanent. "Except for the previous destruction, the state of the theater looks good...Even that destroyed section could be repaired. It had already been destroyed, and it will be again."

Siemens to build power equipment plant in Iran

TEHRAN, Mar. 04 (MNA) – An official said a preliminary deal has been inked with Germany's Siemens to manufacture equipment for the electricity industry.

Arsalan Fathipour, member of Iran Electricity Industry Syndicate, informed reporters about the reached agreement with the German engineering giant for knowledge and technology transfer as well as construction of new equipment for power generation industry saying



"during a visit to Germany, an Iranian delegation signed a contract with Siemens under which a plant will be built for manufacturing power equipment under license of the German firm."

The official estimated that the agreement with Siemens will be finalized into a contract within two months; "products from the joint venture, such as transformers, can be exported besides being used for domestic consumption," he highlighted.

Fathipour went on to underline that collaboration with Siemens was aimed at accelerating production, reducing costs and expanding the export of electricity equipment. The plant will be built in Parand, a town

about 65 kilometers southwest of Tehran, said the official recalling that Iran was a producer and exporter of various transformers in the electricity industry in the Middle East. Siemens has made notable headways in cooperation with Iran after international economic sanctions were canceled last year.

The Munich-based engineering and manufacturing company has signed a deal to deliver more than 20 F-class turbines and share expertise in turbine manufacturing as part Iran's push to upgrade its aging electricity infrastructure and build power plants with improved efficiency. Siemens said in January that it

had received a major order for 12 'compressor trains' for two onshore natural gas processing plants in Iran. The deal was described by Mohsen Nayebyzadeh, CEO of Siemens in Iran, as "Siemens' first huge oil and gas order since the easing of sanctions in January 2016."

Village in South Khorasan restored 38 years after quake

Tehran, April 20, IRNA- Cultural heritage experts have reconstructed Esfahak Village, 35km from Tabas, in South Khorasan Province, 38 years after it was devastated by an earthquake.

Recalling the huge losses inflicted on the village by the 1979 earthquake, Ali Shariatimanesh, Deputy Head of South Khorasan Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Department, said the inhabitants had to abandon the village and establish a new village nearby, reported Iran Daily on Wednesday. Many of the buildings of the old village have been restored and turned into ecotourism resorts, Shariatimanesh said.

Currently, Esfahak Village hosts a large number of tourists, he added.

Esfahak Village, which boasts invaluable monuments including a mosque, a public bath, and a beautiful palm grove, was registered on the National Heritage List in 2015, he said.

Since the village has unique weather, it is suitable for



cultivating various farm crops, he added.

The villagers are involved in farming, animal husbandry and weaving carpets.

Esfahak Village boasts the richest water resources in the Tabas region. A deep well provides drinking water for the village.

The numerous advantages of South Khorasan Province pertain to its abundant production of high-quality agricultural and horticultural products including saffron, barberries, jujube, cotton, pomegranate and medical herbs.

It has deserts with unique features. For instance, Heydar-

Abad desert in Nahbandan has the world's highest sand dunes, some of which are 480 meters high. Moreover, the night sky of the Se-Qaleh Desert provides tourists with an opportunity to view stars for astrological purposes. Hemmat-Abad Desert is yet another example of a great biodiversity. Other deserts of the province with potentials and qualities for tourist attraction are Deh-Salam, Boshrooyeh and Tabas.

The popular attractions of South Khorasan include Ferdows Jame' Mosque, Ferdows Theological School, Nehbandan Citadel, Forg Fortress, Kolah Farangi Mansion in Birjand, Chahar-Derakht Mosque, Amirabad Garden, Behgard Garden, Chenshat Cave, Birjand Jame' Mosque, Imamzadeh Musa al-Kadhim, Alam Palace and Deragon Cave in Sarayan.

Cultural heritage chief tours historical city of Abarkooh

Yazd, March 9, IRNA – Head of the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism, Masoud Soltanifar, who accompanied President Hassan Rouhani in his one-day visit to Yazd on Monday, toured the historical city of Abarkooh in this central province.

Soltanifar, who is also vice president, toured the natural and historical monuments of Abarkooh including the 4,500-year-old Cyprus tree, Aqazadeh residence and Pardisan complex. As the President's delegate to Abarkooh, he also took part in the administrative council session and paid homage to Abarkooh martyrs by placing branches of flowers over their tombstones. The Cypress of Abarkooh, also called the Zoroastrian Sarv, is a *Cupressus sempervirens* tree registered by the Cultural Heritage Organization of Iran as the country's third national natural



monument. It is indeed a major tourist attraction with a height of 25 meters and circumference of 18 meters and is estimated to be over four millennia old. Pardisan complex, encompassing residential houses of Aghazadeh, Mousavi, Seyyed Ali-Agha, Hosseini-Doust and Haji-Khan, spreads over an area of 5,000 square meters in a historical district of Abarkooh. It enjoys

historical, cultural and natural features and is located at the juncture of three provinces of Isfahan, Fars, and Yazd. The historical houses have been transformed into hotels and handicraft workshops for tourist attraction.

Abarkooh has over 400 historical monuments, 3 natural monuments, and two museums displaying many artifacts, 123 of which are nationally registered. Abarkooh with 50,000 inhabitants is located 140 kilometers southwest of Yazd. Its distance to the city of Shiraz is 300 kilometers and to Isfahan 280 kilometers

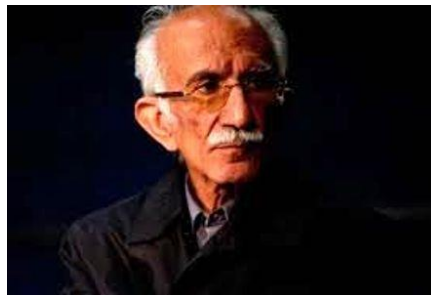
Iranian master of calligraphy receives French Legion of Honor

Tehran, March 1, IRNA – Legion of Honor, the highest cultural order in France, was awarded during a ceremony to the great Iranian master of Persian calligraphy Gholam-Hossein Amirkhani.

The ceremony was held on Tuesday at the French Embassy in Tehran.

After receiving France's Legion of Honor, Master Amirkhani will be called Chevalier (Knight).

Speaking to IRNA on Wednesday, the prominent Iranian calligrapher said that the French medal of Legion of Honor is given to those who have



produced impressive works in art and culture.

Already, several outstanding Iranian figures including the

internationally acclaimed classical singer Mohammad-Reza Shajarian, prominent vocalist Shahram Nazeri, well-known film director Abbas Kiarostami, famous writer Mahmoud Dolatabadi and several others have been awarded the order of Legion of Honor.

Laws & Regulations

The Law of the Attraction and Protection of Foreign Investments

(Part Three)

REGULATIONS ON INVESTMENT IN IRAN



Article 1

In these Regulations, the following words are used in the place of the corresponding full terms:

Mainland:

The Islamic Republic of Iran, excluding the Free Trade and Industrial.

Zones authority:

The Authority of each Free Trade and Industrial Zone of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Zone:

Each Free Trade and Industrial Zone of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Investment: the utilization

of capital in different forms for any economic activity for the purpose of manufacturing goods and providing services.

Foreign Capital:

All the types of capital mentioned in Article 3 of these Regulations (save for the Rial amounts) imported into the Zones by foreign investors.

Foreign Currency Capital:

The capital mentioned in Article 3 of these Regulations (save for the Rial amounts) that is imported into the Zones from outside the Mainland by Iranian nationals.

Net profits: The excess of realized income earned by an entity over expenses incurred in a financial period resulting from profit-making activities, identified and measured in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Article 2

All natural and legal persons and institutions, both Iranian and foreign, as well as international organizations, may either separately or jointly with the Authority and affiliates thereof or jointly with each other invest in the Free Zones in accordance

with these Regulations; their accepted capital shall be subject to these Regulations.

Article 3

For the purpose of these Regulations, capital shall comprise:

- (a) Rial amounts and foreign currency amounts convertible in the Zones (each Zone);
- (b) Machinery, equipment, parts and tools;
- (c) Industrial property rights including patents, technical know-how, trademarks and names;
- (d) Land, air and sea-going vehicles relating to the Investment;
- (e) All or part of transferable net profits generated in the Free Zones and added to the initial capital or utilized in another authorized activity governed by these Regulations.

Note:

In special cases, raw materials and semi-finished parts may, at the discretion of the Authority, be accepted as a part of foreign capital.

Article 4

Capital shall be accepted and made subject to these Regulations under the following conditions:

- (a) It is utilized in activities authorized by a Zone;
- (b) It has completed the entire procedure for the grant of the investment permit mentioned in Articles 5, 6 and 7;
- (c) It does not involve the grant by the Authority to the investor of a concession or monopoly rights.

Foreign investors may participate in the economic activities of the Zone up to any ratio (of the amount of investment).

Article 6

The investors mentioned in Article 2 of these Regulations that wish to import their capital

in any of the Zones must submit to the Zone Authority their application together with a questionnaire (Prepared by the secretariat and the Zone Authorities and placed at said investors disposal).

Applications received in a Zone shall be examined by the Zone Authority and an investment permit issued by the Authority of that Zone.

Note1:

Alterations to the contents of the questionnaire and the investment permit may only be made with the knowledge and, where necessary, approval of the Zone Authority.

Article 7:

Within the period specified in the investment permit, the holder of an investment permit must import into the Zone a set percentage of the capital in order to commence implementation of the activities mentioned in the investment permit.

Article 8:

The importation and registration of capital in Free Zones shall be undertaken in the following manner:

- (1) The capital mentioned in Article 3 (a) of these Regulations shall be deposited in the bank (or authorized credit institution) account of the entity in which the investment is to be made and, after computation of the Rial or foreign currency counter value, as the case may be, at date of the deposit and in accordance with the certificate of the bank (or the authorized credit institution), registered as the capital of the investor in the register of the Zone Authority.
- (2) The capital mentioned in Article 3 (b) and (d) of these Regulations and as specified in the investment permit and evaluated as per their CIF value

evidenced by documents and relevant invoices shall, after review by the Zone Authority, be converted in total at date of customs clearance into a convertible foreign currency; the foreign exchange value thereof and, concurrently, its Rials equivalent (at the current rate of exchange posted in the Zone) shall be registered as of that date as the capital of the investor in the register of the Zone Authority.

(3) The capital mentioned in Article 3 (c) of these Regulations shall, after its evaluation has been confirmed by the Zone Authority, be registered as capital in the register of the Authority. Allocation of the value of the technical know-how to the capital account shall be concurrent with the transfer of said technical know-how.

(4) The capital mentioned in Article 3 (e) of these Regulations shall, after confirmation by an Auditing firm acceptable to the Zone Authority, be registered as capital in the register of the Zone Authority in the following manner:

- (a) After obtaining the approval of the Authority, with the aim of increasing the capital to expand investment in the same entity;
- (b) After obtaining the approval of the Authority, with the aim to expand investment in activities other than activities for which permission has been granted.
- (c) After following the procedure set forth in Article 6 of these Regulations, if the aim is to invest in activities other than the activity for which the investment permit was issued.
- (5) Whenever all or part of imported capital in kind is deemed in the judgment of the Authority as defective, damaged or useless, or do not conform to

the specifications declared in the application, or whose declared value exceeds its real value, such portions of its price are not confirmed by the Authority shall be carried into the capital account.

(6) In cases where capital goods Mentioned in Article 3 (b) and (d) of these Regulations Belonging to foreign investors were previously used on the Mainland and transferred to the zones with the authorization of relevant Mainland authorities, the transfer of such goods shall be deemed as a transfer of domestic capital and shall be subject to the provisions of these regulations.

Article 9:

Investors may insure the capital they import into the Zones. If, pursuant to the occurrence of a Contingency, an insurance company becomes the subrogate of the investor in accordance with the Insurance policy, such subrogation by virtue of payment of compensation to the insurers shall be Recognized; however, it shall not be deemed as an assignment of capital.

Article 10:

The legal rights of foreign investors are guaranteed and protected. In cases where the capital of Foreign investors is nationalized by law in the public interest and/or said investors property is Expropriated, fair compensation of damages shall be effected either by the Government in Compliance with the "Law of Attraction and Protection of Foreign Investments" or by the Authority as required by the investor. In case the Authority is to compensate the damages, the Investor must within a period of six months from date of the expropriation file with the Authority a request for

compensation of damages incurred. The Authority shall evaluate at current prices The amount of damages incurred and within a period of three months' pay compensation thereof. The Zone Authority may undertake the aforementioned guarantees through contractual arrangements with the Central Bank and other banks, credit institutions and insurance companies.

Note:

In case the investors subject to this Article are inclined that the guarantee mentioned in the Law on Attraction and Protection of Foreign Investments (approved in 1334), to be fulfilled, their Proposal of investment has to be submitted to the body subject to the Article (2) of above-Mentioned law. Issuance of guarantee shall be allowed in compliance with the procedures and

Formalities defined in that Law.

Article 11

Each year all entities set up in a Zone pursuant to investment permits must communicate to the Authority a report on their operations and their financial accounts; the financial accounts must be confirmed by an auditing firm acceptable to the Authority,

Article 12

Repatriation from the Zones of net profits, the initial capital and gains resulting from economic Activities undertaken with Foreign Capital and Foreign Currency Capital as well as the proceeds of the sale or transfer of these types of capital is permitted. Upon request of such investors, and after verification that the amounts for which repatriation From a Zone is requested, results from utilization of the investors registered capital in the activity Specified in the investment permit, and after

ensuring that the circumstances set forth in the Following Note have been taken into account, the Zone Authority shall issue the necessary authorizations within one week from date of receipt of said request.

Note:

In its review, the Zone Authority must take into account whether the investor may benefit from The tax exemptions mentioned in Article 13 of the Law on the Administration of the Free Zones and whether the amounts for which repatriation is requested are net amounts.

Article 13

Payments of installments of the principal of loans and related expenses, as well as payments Pursuant to patent, technical know-how, technical assistance and engineering, trademark, management and similar contracts are authorized if the Authority is informed and if they are made within the framework of investment projects based on relevant contracts and financial Statements.

Article 14

Investors may transfer their shares of stock to other investors with the authorization of the Zone Authority. In such case, the transferee shall be deemed in every respect the successor of the original investor.

Article 15

The transfer of capital from one Zone to another Zone shall be subject to the investment regulations of the Zones from which the capital departs and in which it enters.

Article 16

Disputes between foreign investors and Iranian parties shall be settled in accordance with contracts and written agreements.

IBCCIM's New Members

Member Companies:

Arian Sazeh Mashhad Co.: Trading, M.D.: Reza Salahshoor, Address: Fifth Floor, No. 207, 18 maad, 13 farhang, Vakil Abad, Mashhad, Tel: + 98 (21) 36021471, Fax: + 98 (21) 36021475, Email: r_salahshoor2000@yahoo.com .

Iran Abirnet Trading & Producing Co.: Producing Health Products, M.D.: Ali Naghib, Address: Postal Code: 1658943111, No. 51, in the corner of east11, Etehad St., Abali road, Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 77349790, Fax: + 98 (21) 77339597, Email: naghib_A@yahoo.com .

Arya Trade Line Co.: Foodstuff, M.D.: Shabnam Bahrami Shabstari, Address: No. 4, Haft Peikar Alley, Nezami Ganjavi, Tavanir St., Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 88540923, Fax: + 98 (21) 88540925, Email: arya.tradeline@yahoo.com .

Parham Construction Co.: Construction, M.D.: Aliakbar Khodabakhshi, Address: Postal Code: 1598689611, No. 17, Varsho St., Vila St., Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 88901799, Fax: + 98 (21) 88901799, Email: info@parhamco.com .

System Sazan Uranous Co.: Leather, M.D.: Ahmad Sakvand, Address: System Sazan Uranous Co., Loghman St., Amaniye, Ahvaz, Email: Damavand.1983@gmail.com.

Iranian Precise System Co.: Laboratory equipment's , M.D.: Leila Mirmomen, Address:

Postal Code 1967759881, No. 53, Sayeh St., Africa St., Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 22017077, Fax: +98 (21) 26202004, Email: Iranian.precise.system@gmail.com .

Setareh Yakhi Asia Co.: Foodstuff, M.D.: Jamal Razeghi Jahromi, Address: Postal Code: 1447813144, No. 3, Darya Deadend, Javadi St., west Shahid Aliyali St., Nasr St., Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 42873, Fax: + 98 (21) 88275809, Email: razeghi.jamal@bafoods.com .

Arman Tamin Behso Co.: Construction, M.D.: Ahmad Safizadeh Amzajerdi, Address: Postal Code: 1533984813, Forth Floor, No. 34, East Nastaran St., Arabali St., Khoramshahr St., South Sohrevardi St., Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 88539698, Fax: + 98 (21) 88539668, Email: info@behsoco.com .

Karamadan Dina Noavaran Co.: Trading, M.D.: Sanaz Seyed Jafari, Address: Postal Code: 8166665331, Second Floor, No. 234, Abshar Dovom St., Isfahan, Tel: + 98 (313) 6307700, Fax: + 98 (21) 42694771, Email: info@kardino-group.com .

Key Economic Indicators

Population and Labor Force (1395)

Population	79.7 million
Urban	58.2 million
Rural ¹	21.4 million
Population Growth	1.2 percent
Population Density	48.3 per sq km
Active Population (1395, Q2)	26.4 million
Unemployment Rate (1395, Q2)	12.7 percent
Urban	14.4 percent
Rural	7.9 percent
Male	10.4 percent
Female	21.8 percent
15-29 years old	26.7 percent
15-24 years old	30.2 percent

Source: Statistical Center of Iran (SCI).

¹Includes non-resident population.

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

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

Twelve months ending Shahrivar 1395 compared with same period previous year (inflation rate)	8.8 percent
Shahrivar 1395 compared with previous month	0.7 percent
Shahrivar 1395 compared with same month previous year	9.5 percent

External Sector (million US\$) (First six months, 1395)

Current Account Balance	8,690
Trade Balance (goods account)	10,649
Exports (FOB)	38,144
Imports (FOB)	27,495
Total External Debt (end of period)	7,910
Exchange Rate (US\$/IRR)	
Interbank Market (average)	Rls. 30,686

Monetary Sector (growth rate, percent) (Shahrivar 1395 compared with Esfand 1394)

Liquidity (M2)	10.4
Money (M1)	8.3
Quasi-money	10.7
Non-public Sector Deposits	11.2

Government Fiscal Position (trillion Rls.) (1395, Q2)

Revenues	378.4
Expenses	582.2
Disposal of Non-financial Assets	202.5
Acquisition of Non-financial Assets	120.9
Net Lending/Borrowing	93.8

Tehran Stock Exchange (1395, Q2)

Tehran Stock Exchange Price Index (TEPIX) (end of period)	76,451.0
Value of Shares and Rights Traded	Rls. 120.4 trillion
Volume of Shares and Rights Traded	56.9 billion

Source: CBI