



Happy Nowrouz

On the occasion of the arrival of ancient Iranian's Nowrouz, I wish to convey my best wishes to all Iranian from Iran and other parts of the World Happy Nowrouz.

This message is sent with the hope that the new year, and the years to come, more than ever, will be year of friendship, fellowship, peace and tranquility, in the region and all over the world.

A peace and tranquility that will bring mutual understanding and cooperation in the field of economics. A year to end all the international and regional shortcomings and failures. A year full of workmanship, efforts, and economic development at both international and regional relationship between Iran and Britain as two old trade partners.

Dr. Amir Houshang Amini

Iran's foreign trade during the nine month of year 1396

(20 March 2017 to 20 December 2017)

According to the statistics of the I.R of Iran's Customs Department, the Iran's foreign trades volume during the nine month of the year 1396 are as indicated in the following tables:

Primary import/export statistics of non-oil goods with the calculation of gas's Liquidities during the nine month of 1396

Activity	nine month of the year 1396		nine month of the year 1395		Percent of changes	
	Weight (Thousand tons)	Value (Million Dollar)	Weight (Thousand tons)	Value (Million Dollar)	Weight	Value
Import	26.595	37.570	25.147	31.755	5.76	18.31
Export	88.576	31.640	95.125	32.413	-6.88	-2.39

Imports:

The most important imports during the nine month of 1396, have been done with countries, as follows: 1) "China" with 3.581 thousand tons and 9.452 million Dollars and 13.46 percent of weight and 25.16 percent of value, 2) "United Arab Emirates" with 4.052 thousand Tons and 6.656 million Dollars and 15.24 percent of weight and 17.72 percent of value, 3) "Turkey" with 1.589 thousand tons and 2.576 million Dollars and 5.98 percent of weight and 6.86 percent of value, 4) "Republic of Korea" with 1.104 thousand tons and 2.563 million Dollars and 4.15 percent of weight and 6.82 percent of value and 5) "Germany" with 684 thousand tons and 2.095 million Dollars and 2.57 percent of weight and 5.58 percent of value.

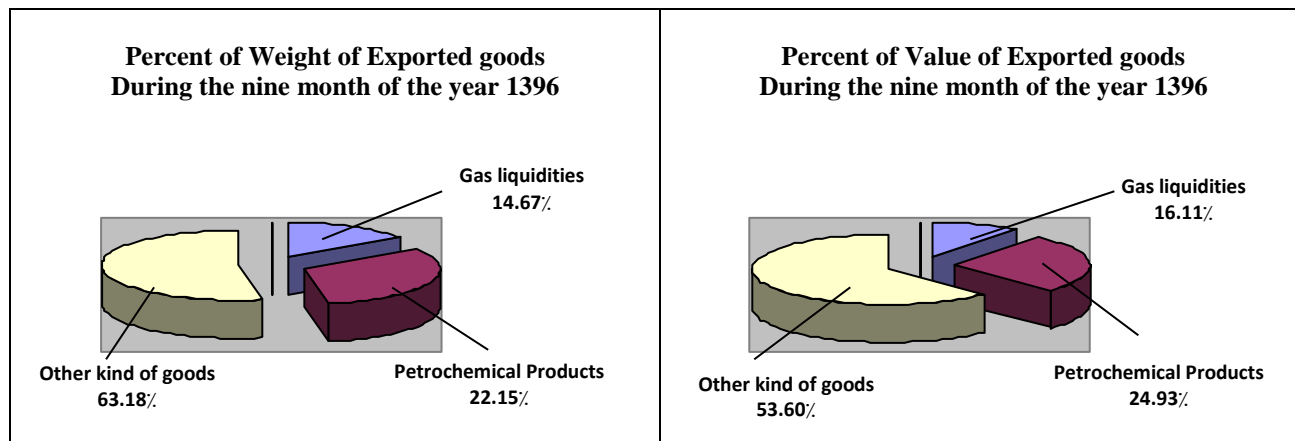


Exports:

During the nine month of 1396, a compound of exported goods with the separation of gas liquidities, petrochemical products and other kinds of goods such as industrial, agricultural, mineral, carpet and handicrafts are as follows:

Export statistics of goods separating of gas liquidities, petrochemical products And other kinds of goods during nine month of the years 1395-96

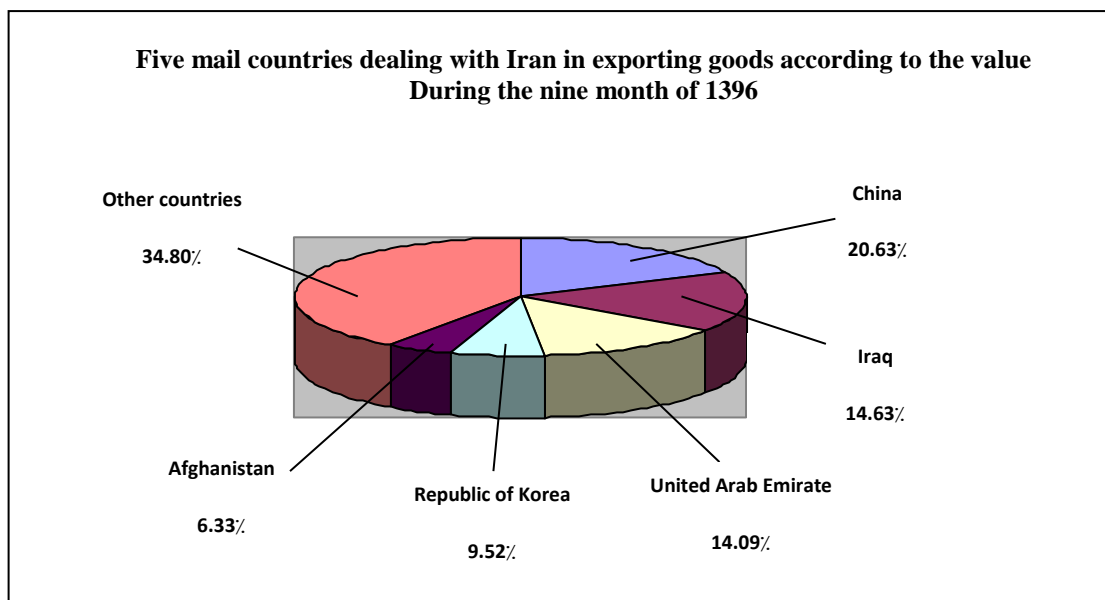
Sort of exported goods	nine month of the year 1396		nine month of the year 1395		Share of Total	
	Weight (Thousand Tons)	value (Million Dollar)	Weight (Thousand Tons)	value (Million Dollar)	Weight	Dollar
Petrochemical products	19.617	9.584	23.202	10.379	-15.45	-7.67
Gas liquidities	12.996	5.098	13.374	5.245	-2.83	-2.81
Other kind of goods	55.964	16.958	58.549	16.789	-4.42	1.01
Total	88.576	31.640	95.125	32.413	-6.88	-2.39



During the nine month of 1396, most of exports have done with the countries, as follows: 1)"China" with 24.798 thousand tons and value of 6.527 million Dollars and 28.00 percent of weight and 20.63 percent of value, 2)"Iraq" with 9.706 thousand tons value of 4.628 million

Dollars and 10.96 percent of weight and 14.63 percent of value, 3)"United Arab Emirate" with 12.836 thousand tons and value of 4.458 Million Dollars and 14.49 percent of weight and 14.09 percent of value , 4)"Republic of Korea" with 7.293 thousand tons and value of 3.011

million Dollars and 8.23 percent of weight and 9.52 percent of value, and 5)"Af-ghanistan" with 4.646 thousand tons and value of 2.004 million dollars and 5.04 percent of weight and 6.33 percent of value.



Average price of each ton of exported goods has been 357 Dollars, increasing 4069 percent in value compared with the similar period last year.

"Tehran"



Tehran, as one of the main tourist destinations in Iran, has a wealth of cultural attractions. It is home to royal complexes of Golestan, Saadabad and Niavaran, which were built under the reign of the country's last two monarchies.

There are several historic, artistic and scientific museums in Tehran, including the National Museum, the Malek Museum, the Cinema Museum at Ferdows Garden, the Abgineh Museum, Museum of the Qasr Prison, the Carpet Museum, the Reverse Glass Painting Museum (vitray art), and the Safir Office Machines Museum. There is also the Museum of Contemporary Art, which hosts works of famous artists such as Van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, and Andy Warhol.

The Iranian Imperial Crown Jewels, one of the largest jewel collections in the world, are also on display at Tehran's National Jewelry Museum.

A number of cultural and trade exhibitions take place in Tehran, which are mainly operated by the country's International Exhibitions Company. Tehran's annual International Book Fair is known to the international publishing world as one of the most important publishing events in Asia.



Tehran is the capital of Iran and Tehran Province. With a population of around 8.8 million in the city and 15 million in its larger metropolitan area, Tehran

is the most populous city in Iran and Western Asia, and it has the second-largest metropolitan area in the Middle East. It is ranked 29th in the world by the

population of its metropolitan area. In the Classical era, part of the territory of present-day Tehran was occupied by Rhages, prominent Median city. It was

subject to destruction following the Arab, Turkic, and Mongol invasions. Its modern-day inheritor remains as an urban area absorbed into the metropolitan area of Greater Tehran.

Tehran was first chosen as the capital of Iran by Agha Mohammad Khan of the Qajar dynasty in 1796, in order to remain within close reach of Iran's territories in the Caucasus, before being separated from Iran as a result of the Russo-Iranian Wars, and to avoid the vying factions of the previously ruling Iranian dynasties.

The city was the seat of the Qajars and Pahlavis, the two last monarchies of Iran. It is home to many historical collections, including the royal complexes of Golestan, Saadabad, and Niavaran, as well as the country's most important governmental buildings of the modern era.

Large scale demolition and rebuilding began in the 1920s, and Tehran has been a destination for the mass migrations from all over Iran since the 20th century.

Tehran's most famous landmarks include the Azadi Tower, a memorial built in 1971 under the reign of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to mark the 2,500th year of the foundation of the Imperial State of Iran, and the Milad Tower, the world's sixth-tallest self-supporting tower which was completed in 2007. The Tabiat Bridge, a newly-built landmark, was completed in 2014.

The majority of the population of Tehran are Persian-speaking people, and roughly 99% of the population understand and speak Persian, but there are large populations of other Iranian ethnicities such as Azerbaijanis, Armenians, Lors, and Kurds who live in Tehran and speak Persian as their second language.

Tehran is served by the international airports of Mehrabad and Khomeini, a central railway station, the rapid transit system of Tehran Metro, a bus rapid transit system, trolleybuses, and a large network of highways.

Classical era: Tehran is situated within the historical region of Media (Old Persian: *Māda*) in northwestern Iran. By the time of the Median Empire, a part of the

territory of present-day Tehran was a suburb of the prominent Median city of Ray).

In the Avesta's *Videvdāt*, Rages is mentioned as the 12th sacred place created by Ohrmazd.

In Old Persian inscriptions, Ray appears as a province (Bisotun 2, 10–18). From Ray, Darius I sent reinforcements to his father Hystaspes, who was putting down the rebellion in Parthia (Bisotun 3, 1–10). In some Middle Persian texts, Ray is given as the birthplace of Zoroaster, although modern historians generally place the birth of Zoroaster in Khorasan. Ray's modern-day inheritor, Ray, is a city located towards the southern end of Tehran, which has been absorbed into the metropolitan area of Greater Tehran. Mount Damavand, the highest peak of Iran, which is located near Tehran, is an important location in Ferdowsi's *Shahnameh*, the Iranian epic poem that is based on the ancient legends of Iran. It appears in the epics as the homeland of the protoplast Keyumars, the birthplace of king Manuchehr, the place where king Freydoun binds the dragon fiend Azdahāk (Bivarasp), and the place where Arash shot his arrow from.

Medieval period: During the reign of the Sassanian Empire, in 641, Yazdgerd III issued his last appeal to the nation from Ray, before fleeing to Khorasan. Ray was dominated by the Parthian Mehran family, and Siyavash—the son of Mehran the son of Choubin, who resisted the 7th-century Muslim invasion of Iran. Because of this resistance, when the Arabs captured Ray, they ordered the town to be destroyed and rebuilt anew by traitor aristocrat Farrokhzad.

In the 9th century, Tehran was a well-known village, but less known than the city of Ray which was flourishing nearby.

Ray was described in detail by 10th-century Muslim geographers. Despite the interest that Arabian Baghdad displayed in Ray, the number of Arabs in the city remained insignificant and the population mainly consisted of Iranians of all classes. The Oghuz Turks invaded Ray discretely in 1035 and 1042, but

the city was recovered under the reigns of the Saljuqs and the Kharazmians.

Medieval writer Najm-od-Din Razi declared the population of Ray about 500,000 before the Mongol invasion. In the 13th century, the Mongols invaded Ray, laid the city in ruins, and massacred many of its inhabitants.

Following the invasion, many of the city's inhabitants escaped to Tehran.

In July 1404, Castilian ambassador Roy González de Clavijo visited Tehran while on a journey to Samarkand, the capital of Turco-Mongol conqueror Teymur, who ruled Iran at the time. In his diary, Tehran was described as an unwall region.

Early modern era: Italian traveler Pietro della Valle passed through Tehran overnight in 1618, and in his memoirs, he mentioned the city as *Taheran*. English traveler Thomas Herbert entered Tehran in 1627, and mentioned it as *Tyroan*. Herbert stated that the city had about 3,000 houses.



A portrait of Qajar ruler Agha Mohammad Khan, kept at London's V&A Museum

In the early 18th century, Karim Khan of the Zand dynasty ordered a palace and a government office to be built in Tehran, possibly to declare the city his capital; but he later moved his government to Shiraz.

Eventually, Qajar king Agha Mohammad Khan chose Tehran as the capital of Iran in 1776.

Agha Mohammad Khan's choice of his capital was based on a similar concern for the control of both northern and southern Iran. He was aware of the loyalties of the inhabitants of former capitals Isfahan and Shiraz to the Safavid



Tehran and Tochal in the winter

and Zand dynasties respectively, and was wary of the power of the local notables in these cities. Thus, he probably viewed Tehran's lack of a substantial urban structure as a blessing, because it minimized the chances of resistance to his rule by the notables and by the general public. Moreover, he had to remain within close reach of Azerbaijan and Iran's integral northern and southern Caucasian territories (at that time not yet irrevocably lost per the treaties of Golestan and Turkmenchay to the neighboring Russian Empire) which would follow in the course of the 19th century. After 50 years of Qajar rule, the city still barely had more than 80,000 inhabitants. Up until the 1870s, Tehran consisted of a walled citadel, a roofed bazaar, and the three main neighborhoods of Udlajan, Chale-Meydan, and Sangelaj, where the majority resided.

The first development plan of Tehran in 1855 emphasized the traditional spatial structure.

Architecture, however, found an eclectic expression to reflect the new lifestyle. The second major planning exercise in Tehran took place under the supervision of Dar ol Fonun.

The 1878 plan of Tehran included new city walls, in the form of a perfect octagon with an area of 19 square kilometers, which mimicked the Renaissance cities of Europe.

Late modern era: The Triumph of Tehran: Sardar Asad II and

Sepahsalar e Tonekaboni conquering Tehran in July 1909

The growing social awareness of civil rights resulted in the Constitutional Revolution and the first constitution of Iran in 1906. On June 2, 1907, the parliament passed a law on local governance known as the *Baladie* (municipal law), providing a detailed outline on issues such as the role of councils within the city, the members' qualifications, the election process, and the requirements to be entitled to vote. The then Qajar monarch Mohammad Ali Shah abolished the constitution and bombarded the parliament with the help of the Russian-controlled Cossack Brigade on June 23, 1908. That followed the capture of the city by the revolutionary forces of Ali-Qoli Khan (Sardar Asad II) and Mohammad Vali Khan (Sepahsalar e Tonekaboni) on July 13,

1909. As a result, the monarch was exiled and replaced with his son Ahmad, and the parliament was re-established.

After World War I, the constituent assembly elected Reza Shah of the Pahlavi dynasty as the new monarch, who immediately suspended the *Baladie* law of 1907, replacing the decentralized and auto-nomous city councils with centralist approaches of governance and planning.

From the 1920s to the 1930s, under the rule of Reza Shah, the city was essentially rebuilt from scratch. That followed a systematic demolition of several old buildings, including parts of the Golestan Palace, Tekye Dowlat, and Tupkhane Square, which were replaced with modern buildings influenced by classical Iranian architecture, particularly the building of the National Bank, the Police Headquarters, the Telegraph Office, and the Military Academy.

The changes in urban fabric started with the street-widening act of 1933, which served as a framework for changes in all other cities. The Grand Bazaar was divided in half and many historic buildings were demolished to be replaced with wide straight avenues. As a result, the traditional texture of the city was replaced

Location and subdivisions: The metropolis of Tehran is divided into 22 municipal districts, each with its own administrative center.

20 of the 22 municipal districts



Hormozan Street, Qarb Town

are located in Tehran County's Central District, while the districts 1 and 20 are respectively located in the counties of Shemiranat and Ray.

Although administratively separate, the cities of Ray and Shemiran are often considered part of Greater Tehran.

Northern Tehran is the wealthiest part of the city, consisting of various districts such as Zaferanie, Jordan, Elahie, Pasdaran, Kamranie, Ajodanie, Farmanie, Darrous, Qeytarie, and Qarb Town. While the center of the city houses government ministries and headquarters, commercial centers are more located towards further north.

Climate: Urban sustainability analysis of the metropolitan area of Tehran, using the 'Circles of Sustainability' method of the UN Global Compact Cities Programme. Tehran features a cold semi-arid climate (Köppen climate classification: BSk) with continental climate characteristics and a Mediterranean climate precipitation pattern.

Tehran's climate is largely defined by its geographic location, with the towering Alborz mountains to its north and the country's central desert to the south.

It can be generally described as mild in spring and autumn, hot and dry in summer, and cold and wet in winter.

Because the city is large with significant differences in elevation among various districts, the weather is often cooler in the hilly north than in the flat southern part of Tehran. For instance, the 17.3 km (10.7 mi) Valiasr Street runs from Tehran's



Air pollution in Tehran

railway station at 1,117 m (3,665 ft) elevation above sea level in the south of the city to Tajrish Square at 1712.6 m (5612.3 ft) elevation above sea level in the north.^[29] However, the elevation can even rise up to 2,000 m (6,600 ft) at the end of Velenjak in northern Tehran.

Summer is long, hot, and dry with little rain, but relative humidity is generally low, making the heat tolerable. Average high temperatures are between 32 and 37 °C (90 and 99 °F), and it can drop to 14 °C in the mountainous north of the city at night. Most of the light annual precipitation occurs from late autumn to mid-spring, but no one month is particularly wet. The hottest month is July, with a mean minimum temperature of 26 °C (79 °F) and a mean maximum temperature of 34 °C (93 °F), and the coldest is January, with a mean minimum temperature of -5 °C (23 °F) and a

mean maximum temperature of 1 °C (34 °F). The weather of Tehran can sometimes be unpredictably harsh. The record high temperature is 43 °C (109 °F) and the record low is -20 °C (-4 °F). On January 5 and 6, 2008, a wave of heavy snow and low temperatures covered the city in a thick layer of snow and ice, forcing the Council of Ministers to officially declare a state of emergency and close down the capital on January 6 and 7.

Tehran has seen an increase in relative humidity and annual precipitation since the beginning of the 21st century. This is most likely because of the afforestation projects, which also include expanding parks and lakes. The northern parts of Tehran are still more lush than the southern parts.

Environmental issues: The city suffers from severe air pollution. 80% of the city's pollution is due to cars.^[38] The remaining 20% is due to industrial pollution. Other estimates suggest that motorcycles alone account for 30% of air and 50% of noise pollution in Tehran. In 2010, the government announced that "for security and administrative reasons, the plan to move the capital from Tehran has been finalized." There are plans to relocate 163 state firms and several universities from Tehran to avoid damages from a potential earthquake.

The officials are engaged in a battle to reduce air pollution. It has, for instance, encouraged taxis and buses to convert from



Mellat Park in Autumn



Hosseiniyeh Ershad in Tehran



Adrian Temple in Tehran

petrol engines to engines that run on compressed natural gas.

Furthermore, the government has set up a "Traffic Zone" covering the city center during peak traffic hours. Entering and driving inside this zone is only allowed with a special permit.

There have also been plans to raise people's awareness about the hazards of the pollution. One method that is currently being employed is the installation of Pollution Indicator Boards all around the city to monitor the current level of particulate matter (PM10), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and carbon monoxide (CO).

Demographics: The city of Tehran had a population of approximately 8.7 million in 2015. With its cosmopolitan atmosphere, Tehran is home to diverse ethnic and linguistic groups from all over the country. The present-day dominant language of Tehran is the the-rani variety of the Persian language, and the majority of people in Tehran identify themselves as Persians. However, before, the native language of the Tehran-Ray region was

not Persian, which is linguistically Southwest Iranian and originates in Fars, but a now extinct Northwestern Iranian language.

Iranian Azeris form the second-largest ethnic group of the city, comprising about 25% to 1/3 of the total population, while ethnic Mazanderanis are the third largest, comprising about 16% of the total population. Tehran's other ethnic communities include Kurds, Armenians, Georgians, Bakhtyaris, Talysh, Baloch, Assyrians, Arabs, Jews, and Circassians.

According to a 2010 census conducted by the Sociology Department of the University of Tehran, in many districts of Tehran across various socioeconomic classes in proportion to population sizes of each district and socio-economic class, 63% of the people were born in Tehran, 98% knew Persian, 75% identified themselves as ethnic Persian, and 13% had some degree of proficiency in a European language. Tehran saw a drastic change in its ethno-social composition in the early 1980s. After the poli-

tical, social, and economic consequences of the 1979 Revolution and the years that followed, a number of Iranian citizens, mostly Tehrani, left Iran. The majority of Iranian emigrations have left for the United States, France, Germany, Sweden, and Canada.

With the start of the Iran-Iraq War (1980–1988), a second wave of inhabitants fled the city, especially during the Iraqi air offensives on the capital. With most major powers backing Iraq at the time, economic isolation gave yet more reason for many inhabitants to leave the city (and the country). Having left all they had and having struggled to adapt to a new country and build a life, most of them never came back when the war was over. During the war, Tehran also received a great number of migrants from the west and the southwest of the country bordering Iraq.

The unstable situation and the war in neighboring Afghanistan and Iraq prompted a rush of refugees into the country who arrived in their millions, with Tehran being a magnet for many seeking work, who subsequently helped the city to recover from war wounds, working for far less pay than local construction workers. Many of these refugees are being repatriated with the assistance of the UNHCR, but there are still sizable groups of Afghan and Iraqi refugees in Tehran who are reluctant to leave, being pessimistic about the situation in their own countries. Afghan refugees are mostly Dari-speaking Tajik and Hezare, speaking a variety of Persian, and Iraqi refugees are mainly Mesopotamian Arabic-



Tehran's Yusef Abad Synagogue

speakers who are often of Iranian heritage.

Religion: The majority of Tehranians are officially Shia Muslims, which has also been the state religion since the 16th-century Safavid conversion. Other religious communities in the city include followers of the Sunni and Mystic branches of Islam, various Christian denominations, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, and the Bahá'í Faith.

There are many religious centers scattered around the city, from old to newly-built centers, including mosques, churches, synagogues, and Zoroastrian fire temples.

The city has also a very small third-generation Indian Sikh community that has a local gurdwara that was visited by the Indian Prime Minister in 2012.

Economy: Tehran is the economic center of Iran. About 30% of Iran's public-sector workforce and 45% of its large industrial firms are located in the city, and almost half of these workers are employed by the government. Most of the remainder of workers are factory workers, shopkeepers, laborers, and transport workers.

Few foreign companies operate in Tehran, due to the government's complex international relations. But prior to the 1979 Revolution, many foreign companies were active in Iran. Tehran's present-day modern ind-



Hyper Star, Tehran's Subsidiary of French retailer carrefour

ustries include the manufacturing of automobiles, electronics and electrical equipment, weaponry, textiles, sugar, cement, and chemical products. It is also a leading center for the sale of carpets and furniture. The oil refining companies of Pars Oil, Speedy, and Behran are based in Tehran. Tehran relies heavily on private cars, buses, motorcycles, and taxis, and is one of the most car-dependent cities in the world.

The Tehran Stock Exchange, which is a full member of the member of the Federation of Euro-Asian Stock Exchanges, has been one of the world's best performing stock exchanges in recent years.

Shopping: Tehran has a wide range of shopping centers, and is home to over 60 modern shopping malls. The city has a number of commercial districts, including those located at Vali-e-Asr, Davudiyeh, and Zaferanie. The largest old bazaars of Tehran are the Grand Bazaar and the Bazaar of Tajrish.

Most of the international branded stores and upper-class shops are located in the northern and western parts of the city.

Tehran's retail business is growing with several newly-built malls and shopping centers.

Transport: Highways and streets: The metropolis of Tehran is equipped with a large network of highways and interchanges. Kordestan Expressway interchange with Resalat and Hakim expressways

A number of streets in Tehran are named after international figures, including:

- Henri Corbin Street, central Tehran.
- Simon Bolivar Boulevard, northwestern Tehran.
- Edward Browne Street, near the University of Tehran.
- Gandhi Street, northern Tehran.
- Mohammad Ali Jenah Expressway, western Tehran.
- Iqbal Lahori Street, eastern Tehran.
- Patrice Lumumba Street, western Tehran.
- Nelson Mandela Boulevard, northern Tehran.
- Bobby Sands Street, western side of the British Embassy.



Centeal Bank of Iran



Tehran's old Garden Bazar



Milad Tower

Cars: According to the head of Tehran Municipality's Environment and Sustainable Development Office, Tehran was designed to have a capacity of about 300,000 cars, but currently more than five million cars are on the roads.

The automation industry has recently developed, but international sanctions influence the production processes periodically.

According to local media, Tehran has more than 200,000 taxis plying the roads daily with several types of taxi available in the city. Airport taxis have a higher cost per kilometer as opposed to regular green and yellow taxis in the city.

Buses have served the city since the 1920s. Tehran's transport system includes conventional buses, trolleybuses, and bus rapid transit (BRT). The city's four major bus stations include the South Terminal, the East Terminal, the West Terminal, and the northcentral Beyhaghi Terminal.

The trolleybus system was opened in 1992, using a fleet of 65 articulated trolleybuses built by Czechia's Škoda. This was the first trolleybus system in Iran. In 2005, trolleybuses were operating on five routes, all starting at Imam Hossein Square.^[60] Two routes running northeastwards operate almost entirely in a segregated busway located in the middle of the wide carriageway along Damavand Street, stopping only at purpose-built stops

located about every 500 metres along the routes, effectively making these routes trolleybus-BRT (but they are not called such). The other three trolleybus routes run south and operate in mixed-traffic. Both route sections are served by limited-stop services and local (making all stops) services.

A 3.2-kilometer extension from Shoosh Square to Rah Ahan Square was opened in March 2010. Tehran's bus rapid transit (BRT) was officially inaugurated in 2008. It has three lines with 60 stations in different areas of the city. As of 2011, the BRT system had a network of 100 kilometers (62 miles), transporting 1.8 million passengers on a daily basis. The city has also developed a bicycle sharing system that includes 12 hubs in one of Tehran's districts.

Railway and subway: Tehran has a central railway station that connects services round the clock to various cities in the country, along with a Tehran–Europe train line also running.

The feasibility study and conceptual planning of the construction of Tehran's subway system were started in the 1970s. The first two of the eight projected metro lines were opened in 2001.

Airport: Tehran is served by the international airports of Mehrabad and Khomeini. Mehrabad Airport, an old airport in western Tehran that doubles as a military base, is mainly used for domestic and charter flights. Khomeini Airport, located 50 kilometers



Golestan Palace

(31 miles) south of the city, handles the main international flights.

Parks and green spaces: There are over 2,100 parks within the metropolis of Tehran, with one of the oldest being Jamshidiye Park, which was first established as a private garden for Qajar prince Jamshid Davallu, and was then dedicated to the last empress of Iran, Farah Pahlavi. The total green space within Tehran stretches over 12,600 hectares, covering over 20 percent of the city's area. The Parks and Green Spaces Organization of Tehran was established in 1960, and is responsible for the protection of the urban nature present in the city.

Tehran's Birds Garden is the largest bird park of Iran. There is also a zoo located on the Tehran–



Parked Airlines at the Mehrabad Airport



Tehran's Railway Station

Karaj Expressway, housing over 290 species within an area of about five hectares.

There are four parks in Tehran established exclusively for women, totaling about 80 hectares in area, in which the female mandatory dress codes are not required.

Education: Tehran is the largest and the most important educational center of Iran. There are a total of nearly 50 major colleges and universities in Greater Tehran. Since the establishment of Dar ol Fonun by the order of Amir Kabir in the mid-19th century, Tehran has amassed a large number of institutions of higher education. Some of these institutions have played crucial roles in the unfolding of Iranian political events. Samuel M. Jordan, whom Jordan Avenue in Tehran was named after, was one of the founding pioneers of the American College of Tehran, which was one of the first mo-

dern high schools in the Middle East. Among major educational institutions located in Tehran, Sharif University of Technology, University of Tehran, and Tehran University of Medical Sciences are the most prestigious. Other major universities located in Tehran include Allameh Tabatabaei University, Amirkabir University of Technology (Tehran Polytechnic), K.N. Toosi University of Technology, Shahid Beheshti University (Melli University), Kharazmi University, Iran University of Science and Technology, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Islamic Azad University, International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology, Iran's Polymer and Petrochemical Institute, Shahed University, and Tarbiat Modarres University.

Tehran is also home to Iran's largest military academy, and several religious schools.

Architecture: The oldest sur-

living architectural monuments of Tehran are from the Qajar and Pahlavi eras. Although, considering the area of Greater Tehran, monuments dating back to the Seljuk era remain as well; notably the Toqrol Tower in Ray. There are also remains of Rastkhaneh Castle, dating back to the ancient Parthian Empire, of which some artifacts are housed at the National Museum;^[66] and the Bahram fire temple, which remains since the Sassanian Empire.

Tehran only had a small population until the late 18th century, but began to take a more considerable role in Iranian society after it was chosen as the capital city. Despite the regular occurrence of earthquakes during the Qajar period and after, some historic buildings have remained from that era. Tehran is Iran's primate city, and is considered to have the most modernized infrastructure in the country.

However, the gentrification of old neighborhoods and the demolition of buildings of cultural significance has caused concerns. Previously a low-rise city due to seismic activity in the region, modern high rise developments in Tehran have been built in recent decades in order to service its growing population. There have been no major quakes in Tehran since 1830.

Tehran's International Tower is the tallest residential building in Iran. It is a 54-story building located in the northern district of Yusef Abad.

The Azadi Tower, a memorial built under the reign of the



Kordestan Expressway interchange with Resalat and Hakim Expressway



Golestan Palace

Pahlavi dynasty, has long been the most famous symbol of Tehran. Originally constructed in commemoration of the 2,500th year of the foundation of the Imperial State of Iran, it combines elements of the architecture of the Achaemenid and Sassanid eras with post-classical Iranian architecture. The Milad Tower, which is the sixth tallest tower and the 24th-tallest freestanding structure in the world, is the city's other famous landmark tower. Tabiat Bridge, the largest pedestrian overpass in Tehran, was completed in 2014 and is also considered a landmark.

Theater: Under the reign of the Qajars, Tehran was home to the royal theater of Tekye Dowlat located to the southeast of the Golestan Palace, in which traditional and religious performances were observed. It was eventually destroyed and replaced with a bank building in 1947. Following the reforms under the reign of Reza Shah Before the 1979 Revolution, the Iranian national stage had become the most famous performing scene for known inter-national artists and troupes in the Middle East,^[72] with the Roudaki Hall of Tehran constructed to function as the national stage for opera and ballet. The hall was inaugurated in October 1967, named after prominent Persian poet Roudaki. It is home to the Tehran Symphony Orchestra, the Tehran Opera Orchestra, and the Iranian National Ballet Company. The City Theater of Tehran, one of Iran's biggest theater complexes which contains several performance halls, was opened in 1972. It was built at the initiative and presidency of Empress Farah Pahlavi, and was designed by arch-

itect Ali Sardar Afkhami, constructed within five years.

The annual events of Fajr Theater Festival and Tehran Puppet Theater Festival take place in Tehran.

Cinema: The first movie theater of Tehran was established by Mirza Ebrahim Khan in 1904. Until the early 1930s, there were 15 theaters in Tehran Province and 11 in other provinces.

In present-day Tehran, most of the movie theaters are located downtown. The complexes of Mellat Gallery and Cineplex, Azadi Cinema, and Cinema Farhang are among the most popular cinema complexes in Tehran.

Several film festivals are held in Tehran, including Fajr Film Festival, Children and Youth Film Festival, House of Cinema Festival, Mobile Film and Photo Festival, Nahal Festival, Roshd Film Festival, Tehran Animation Festival, Tehran Short Film Festival, and Urban Film Festival.

Sports: Football and volleyball



National Museum of Iran

are the city's most popular sports, while wrestling, basketball, and futsal are also major parts of the city's sporting culture.

12 ski resorts operate in Iran, the most famous being Tochal, Dizin, and Shemshak, all within one to three hours from the city of Tehran.

Tochal's resort is the world's fifth highest ski resort at over 3,730 meters (12,240 feet) above sea level at its highest point. It is also the World's nearest ski resort to a capital city. The resort was opened in 1976, shortly before the 1979 Revolution. It is equipped with a 8-kilometre-long (5 mi) gondola lift that covers a huge vertical distance. There are two parallel chair ski lifts in Tochal that reach 3,900 meters (12,800 feet) high near Tochal's peak (at 4,000 m/13,000 ft), rising higher than the gondola's 7th station, which is higher than any of the European ski resorts. From the Tochal peak, one has a spectacular view of the Alborz range, including the 5,610-metre-



Abgineh Museum



Tabiat Bridge

high (18,406 ft) Mount Damavand, a dormant volcano.

Tehran is the site of the national stadium of Azadi, the biggest stadium by capacity in West Asia, where many of the top matches of Iran's Premier League are held. The stadium is a part of the Azadi Sport Complex, which was originally built to host the 7th Asian Games in September 1974. This was the first time the Asian Games were hosted in West Asia. Tehran played host to 3,010 athletes from 25 coun-

tries/NOCs, which was at the time the highest number of participants since the inception of the Games.^[76] That followed hosting the 6th AFC Asian Cup in June 1976, and then the first West Asian Games in November 1997. The success of the games led to the creation of the West Asian Games Federation (WAGF), and the intention of hosting the games every two years. The city had also hosted the final of the 1968 AFC Asian Cup. Several FIVB Volleyball World



A Restaurant in Darabnd

League courses have also been hosted in Tehran.

Football clubs: The first football club of Tehran, named *Iran Club*, was founded in 1920 and dissolved within two years in 1923. Today, Tehran's oldest existing football club is Rah Ahan, which was founded in 1937. Persepolis and Esteghlal, which are the city's biggest clubs and two of the biggest clubs in Asia, compete in the Tehran derby. Tehran is also home to the football club of Ararat, a popular Armenian football team based at the Ararat Stadium.

Food: There are many restaurants and cafes in Tehran, both modern and classic, serving both Iranian and cosmopolitan cuisine. Pizzerias, sandwich bars, and kebab shops make up the majority of food shop.

Tehran's five major football clubs.

Club	Sport	Founded	League
Rah Ahan F.C.	Association football	1937	Azadegan League (AZL)
Ararat F.C.	Association football	1944	Tehran Province League
Esteghlal F.C.	Association football	1945	Iran Pro League (IPL)
Naft F.C.	Association football	1950	Iran Pro League (IPL)
Persepolis F.C.	Association football	1963	Iran Pro League (IPL)
Paykan F.C.	Association football	1967	Iran Pro League (IPL)



Ferdowsi

Hakim Abolghasem Ferdowsi Tusi



Statue of Ferdowsi in Ferdowsi Square in Tehran



Hakim Abol - Qasem Ferdowsi Tusi (c. 940–1020), is author of Shahnameh ("Book of Kings"), which is the world's longest epic poem created by a single poet, and the national epic of Greater Iran. Ferdowsi is celebrated as the most influential figure in Persian literature and one of the greatest in the history of literature. He was called "the Lord of the Word" and "the Savior of the Persian language Ferdowsi's poems: "Think for your lord's gratification – be intellectual and truthful", written on the wall of a school in Iran.

As readable in Free Wikipedia, Except for his kunya (*Abol-Qāsem*) and his Nickname (*Ferdowsī*, meaning 'paradisiac'), nothing is known with any certainty about his full name. From an early period on, he has been referred to by different additional names and titles, the most common one being, *Hakīm* ("philosopher"). Based on this, his full name is given in Farsi sources as حکیم ابوالقاسم فردوسی توسی / *Hakīm Abol-Qāsem Ferdowsī Tusī*. Due to the non-standardized translation from Persian into English, different spellings of his name are used in English works, including *Ferdawsi*, *Firdusi*, *Firdosi*, *Firdausi*, etc.

The *Encyclopædia Iranica*, which uses a modified version of the same method (with a stronger emphasis on Persian intonations), gives the spelling *Ferdowsī*.

Life:

Ferdowsi was born into a family of Iranian landowners (*dehqans*) in 940 in the village of Paj, near the city of Tus, in the Khorasan region of the Samanid Empire, which is located in the present-day Kho-rasan -e- Razavi Province, in the northeastern of Iran.

The poet had a wife, who was probably literate and came from the same *dehqans* class. He had a son, who died at the age of 37, and was mourned by the poet in an elegy which he inserted into the *Shahname*.

This is the story of Ferdowsi's life. And it is the story that is still told about Ferdowsi today.

It is impossible to say whether the story is true or not. But maybe whether it really happened or not doesn't matter, as the story reveals something about Ferdowsi's character and what people thought of him.

The story shows Ferdowsi's determination to write the perfect poem, his belief that he had achieved this aim, and his courage to stand up for his art. The story also seems to follow the pattern of many of the stories about Kings who make bad judgements in the *Shahname* itself. Ferdowsi (940 – 1020Ad) was born in Tus, a



town in North Eastern Iran, in the province of Khorasan.

As a boy Ferdowsi loved to play beside the river. But the bridge was always being washed away by floods. No one could build a bridge strong enough to withstand the floods. Ferdowsi dreamt that one day he might earn enough money to build a bridge that would stand up to the floods.

Ferdowsi became a renowned poet and was given the job by the King to write down the history of Persia. The King put Ferdowsi in a special room in his palace, which had paintings covering the walls, to inspire Ferdowsi's poetry. The King told Ferdowsi that he would pay him 1000 gold pieces for each 1000 couplets that he managed to write.

At the end of 30 years of hard work, Ferdowsi had written 60,000 couplets - the *Shahname*. He gave the poem to the King and asked for his 60,000 gold pieces. But during the 30 years of writing Ferdowsi had argued with the King. Ferdowsi felt the King did not praise his work or value him enough. The King thought Ferdowsi was much too proud and only gave him 60,000 silver pieces.

Ferdowsi was furious. He left the palace and went back home to Tus. But he left behind a poem for the King, stuck to the wall of the room he had worked

in for all those years. It was a long and angry poem, more like a curse, and ended with the words:

"heaven's vengeance will not forget. Shrink tyrant from my words of fire, and tremble at a poets ire."

The King ordered that Ferdowsi be found and trampled to death by elephants. So Ferdowsi begged for forgiveness. The King accepted but said he never wanted to see or hear from Ferdowsi again.

Many, many people complained to the King. In the end, the King felt remorseful and sent a camel train to Tus carrying 60,000 gold pieces along with cloth of silk, brocade and velvet, perfumes and spices.

But the King's gifts arrived too late. It is said that Ferdowsi died before the camel train arrived. As the King's caravan arrived in one gate of the city, Ferdowsi's coffin and funeral procession left another gate of the city.

Background:

Ferdowsi belonged to the class of *dehqans*. These were landowning Iranian aristocrats who had flourished under the Sassanid dynasty (the last pre-Islamic dynasty to rule Iran) and whose power, though diminished, had survived into the Islamic era which followed the Islamic conquests of the 7th century. The *dehqans* were attached to the pre-Islamic

literary heritage, as their status was associated with it (so much so that *dehqan* is sometimes used as a synonym for "Iranian" in the *Shahnameh*). Thus they saw it as their task to preserve the pre-Islamic cultural traditions, including tales of legendary kings.

The Islamic conquests of the 7th century brought gradual linguistic and cultural changes to the Iranian Plateau. By the late 9th century, as the power of the caliphate had weakened, several local dynasties emerged in Greater Iran. Ferdowsi grew up in Tus, a city under the control of one of these dynasties, the Samanid, who claimed descent from the Sassanid general Bahram Chobin (whose story Ferdowsi recounts in one of the later sections of the *Shahnameh*). The Samanid bureaucracy used the New Persian language, which had been used to bring Islam to the Eastern regions of the Iranian world and supplanted local languages, and commissioned translations of Pahlavi (Middle Persian) texts into New Persian. Abu Mansur Mohammad, a *dehqan* and governor of Tus, had ordered his minister Abu Mansur Mamari to invite several local scholars to compile a prose *Shahnameh* ("Book of Kings"), which was completed in 1010.^[6] Although it no longer survives, Ferdowsi used it as one of the sources of his epic. Samanid rulers were



patrons of such important Persian poets as Rudaki and Daqiqi, and Ferdowsi followed in the footsteps of these writers. Details about Ferdowsi's education are lacking. Judging by the *Shahnameh*, there is no evidence he knew either Arabic or Pahlavi.

Life as a poet:

It is possible that Ferdowsi wrote some early poems which have not survived. He began work on the *Shahnameh* around 977, intending it as a continuation of the work of his fellow poet Daqiqi, who had been assassinated by a slave. Like Daqiqi, Ferdowsi employed the prose *Shahnameh* of 'Abd-ol-Razzāq as a source. He received generous patronage from the Samanid prince

Mansur and completed the first version of the *Shahnameh* in 994. When the Turkic Ghaznavids overthrew the Samanids in the late 990s, Ferdowsi continued to work on the poem, rewriting sections to praise the Ghaznavid Sultan Mahmud. Mahmud's attitude to Ferdowsi and how well he rewarded the poet are matters which have long been subject to dispute and have formed the basis of legends about the poet and his patron (see below). The Turkic Mahmud may have been less interested in tales from Iranian history than the Samanids. The later sections of the *Shahnameh* have passages which reveal Ferdowsi's fluctuating moods: in some he complains about old age, poverty, illness and the death of his son; in others, he appears happier. Ferdowsi finally completed his epic on 8 March 1010. Virtually nothing is known with any certainty about the last decade of his life. Ferdowsi was buried in his own garden, burial in the cemetery of Tus having been forbidden by a local cleric. A Ghaznavid governor of Khorasan constructed a mausoleum over the grave and it became a revered site. The tomb, which had fallen into decay, was rebuilt between 1928 and 1934 by the Society for the National Heritage of Iran on the orders of Rezā Shāh, and has now become the equivalent of a national shrine.

Legend:

According to legend, Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni offered Ferdowsi a gold piece for every couplet of the *Shahnameh* he wrote. The poet agreed to receive the money as a lump sum when he had completed the epic. He planned to use it to rebuild the dykes in his native Tus. After thirty years of work, Ferdowsi finished his masterpiece. The sultan prepared to give him 60,000 gold pieces, one for every couplet, as agreed. However, the courtier whom Mahmud had entrusted with the money despised Ferdowsi, regarding him as a heretic, and he replaced the gold coins with silver. Ferdowsi was in the bath house when he received the reward. Finding it was silver



The Simurgh, a mythical bird from the Shahnameh, relief from Ferdowsi's mausoleum



and not gold, he gave the money away to the bath keeper, a refreshment seller, and the slave who had carried the coins. When the courtier told the sultan about Ferdowsi's behaviour, he was furious and threatened to execute him. Ferdowsi fled Khorasan, having first written a satire on Mahmud, and spent most of the remainder of his life in exile. Mahmud eventually learned the truth about the courtier's deception and had him either banished or executed. By this time, the aged Ferdowsi had returned to Tus. The sultan sent him a new gift of 60,000 gold pieces, but just as the caravan bearing the money entered the gates of Tus, a funeral procession exited the gates on the opposite side: the poet had died from a heart attack.

Works:

Ferdowsi's *Shahname* is the most popular and influential national epic in Iran and other Persian-speaking nations. The *Shahnameh* is the only surviving work by Ferdowsi regarded as

indisputably genuine. He may have written poems earlier in his life but they no longer exist. A narrative poem, *Yūsof o Zolaykā* (Joseph and Zuleika), was once attributed to him, but scholarly consensus now rejects the idea it is his.^[3] There has also been speculation about the satire Ferdowsi allegedly wrote about Mahmoud of Ghaznavi after the sultan failed to reward him sufficiently. Nezami Aruzi, Ferdowsi's early biographer, claimed that all but six lines had been destroyed by a well-wisher who had paid Ferdowsi a thousand dirhams for the poem. Introductions to some manuscripts of the *Shahnameh* include verses purporting to be the satire. Some scholars have viewed them as fabricated; others are more inclined to believe in their authenticity.

Influence:

Ferdowsi is one of the undisputed giants of Persian literature. After Ferdowsi's *Shahnameh*, a number of other works similar in nature surfaced over the centuries within the cultural sphere of the Persian language. Without exception, all such works were based in style and method on Ferdowsi's *Shahname*, but none of them could quite achieve the same degree of fame and popularity as Ferdowsi's masterpiece.

Ferdowsi has a unique place in Persian history because of the strides he made in reviving and regenerating the Persian language and cultural traditions. His works are cited as a crucial component in the persistence of the Persian language, as those works allowed much of the tongue to remain codified and intact. In this respect, Ferdowsi surpasses Nezami, Khayyám, Asadi Tusi and other seminal

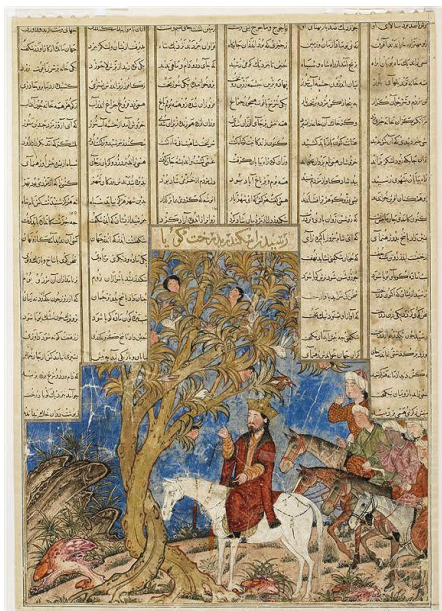
Persian literary figures in his impact on Persian culture and language. Most of modern Iranians see him as the father of the modern Persian language.

Ferdowsi in fact was a motivation behind many future Persian figures. One such notable figure was Rezā Shah Pahlavi, who established an Academy of Persian Language and Literature, in order to attempt to remove Arabic and French words from the Persian language, replacing them with suitable Persian alternatives. In 1934, Rezā Shāh set up a ceremony in Mashhad, Khorasan, celebrating a thousand years of Persian literature since the time of Ferdowsi, titled "Ferdowsi Millennial Celebration", inviting notable European as well as Iranian scholars. Ferdowsi University of Mashhad is a university established in 1949 that also takes its name from Ferdowsi.

Ferdowsi's influence in the Persian culture is explained by the Encyclopedia Britannica:

The Persians regard Ferdowsi as the greatest of their poets. For nearly a thousand years they have continued to read and to listen to recitations from his masterwork, the *Shah-name*, in which the Persian national epic found its final and enduring form. Though written about 1,000 years ago, this work is as intelligible to the average, modern Iranian as the King James Version of the Bible is to a modern English-speaker. The language, based as the poem is on a Dari original, is pure Persian with only the slightest admixture of Arabic.

Source: From Free Wikipedia & Other Internet resources - Mehrafarin



Larijani:

UK uncooperative with Iran over JCPOA



According to the report of “MNA” Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani held talks with the UK foreign minister where he said “unlike certain other European countries, the UK did not take appropriate measures to promote economic cooperation with Iran after JCPOA.”

Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani held talks with UK Foreign Minister Boris Johnson and the delegation he headed where he expressed his gratitude towards the UK government and people for the condolences they offered on the recent disastrous earthquake in Iran and said “we are after promoting economic relations with the European Union. Iran, UK ties have a long history with lots of ups and downs along the way.”

“We disagree with military campaigns against other countries; since 2000 when the US and the UK armies invaded Afghanistan and then Iraq, the region was plunged into ever worsening chaos. These invasions were the major reason in the spread of terrorism. Instead of voicing anti-Iran sentiments, it would be more rewarding to pay attention to the reality of what is going on in regional countries,” Larijani added. “All Bahraini people want is democracy. They want equal voting rights. Why do you aid their

oppression? You claim to be the upholders of human rights, yet you support those who violate Bahraini people’s rights,” he asserted.

Underlining the fact that world powers provide the violators of Bahraini people with weaponry and facilities, Larijani added “we engaged in fight against terrorism in Iraq and Syria at the formal request of their governments. We believe that political negotiations and dialogue are the keys to the regional problems. Why is it that some countries opposed JCPOA while it was considered the right decision?”

“After JCPOA agreement was reached, unlike certain other European countries that did their best to engage in economic cooperation with Iran, the UK did not take appropriate measures to promote economic cooperation with Iran. You did not even solve the banking obstacles of Iranian embassy in London,” Larijani said. Asserting that the US decision to move its embassy to al-Quds was one of the biggest mistakes the US government ever made, Larijani said “the future will tell just how big this mistake has been.” For his part, the UK FM Boris Johnson offered his condolences to Iranians for the recent earthquake and, referring to JCPOA agreements, he added “we support JCPOA as an international agreement.”

“At present, the ties between Iran and the UK are not strong enough and we have engaged in much less business cooperation compared to France and Germany,” Johnson acknowledged. Explaining his mission to increase political, economic and parliamentary cooperation with Iran and removing the obstacles for the expansion of ties, the UK FM said “we are after increasing political interaction and we are willing to receive more Iranian tourists in the UK.”

Boris Johnson acknowledged that certain inappropriate measures adopted by the UK have resulted in the dissolution of regional regimes and said “Iran, Saudi tensions are not beneficial to any countries and will only result in unstable conditions. The problems between the two countries need to be solved and we intend to help Iran’s attempts to establish stability in the region.”

Calling the activities of terrorist groups in the region regrettable, Johnson asserted “Iranian Parliament and the House of Lords of the UK have both been the targets of terrorist attacks. We are interested in cooperating with Iran over fighting terrorism and we will gain from your experience in this regard.”

Outcomes of Boris Johnson's trip to Tehran



(MNA)—The visit of British Foreign Secretary, "Boris Johnson", to Tehran has been called a special trip by many analysts of foreign policy and international affairs, and subjects such as "the case of security convicts", "the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)" and "regional issues" are considered among his goals of this visit. There are some important points about Johnson's trip to Tehran:

Boris Johnson has been accused by many British politicians of failing to perform his duties during the past months, especially weeks before his recent trip to Iran. Following Johnson's remarks about Nazanin Zaghari's case, and emphasizing that she was in Iran for running a journalism course, we were witnessing new protests against the British Foreign Secretary. They have reached a point where some British officials, including the Labor Party's leader "Jeremy Corbyn", demanded Johnson's resignation from his post. Beyond that, some members of the conservative party also expressed their opposition to supporting Johnson being the British Prime Minister after Teresa May's possible resignation. Under such circumstances, one of Johnson's main goals of his trip to Tehran has been to revive his legal

personality. In analyzing the British Foreign Secretary's visit to Tehran, one shouldn't overlook these political and personal motives.

-The British Foreign Secretary has recently held talks with members of the US Congress, and in particular some prominent Republican and Democratic presidential candidates. Johnson, on his trip to Tehran, also emphasized that his country supported the nuclear deal. However, it should be noted that London has been accused of violating the nuclear deal over the past two years. Nuclear analysts emphasize that after the United States, Britain has been the most important obstacle on the way of the JCPOA and made every effort to prevent its realization. In March, the British Foreign Office called Iran a challenging place for trade, calling on investors and businessmen in the United Kingdom to be cautious about investing in Iran and to make the necessary consultations in this regard. Also, the UK made lots of barriers during the purchase of 950 tons of uranium and yellow cake by Iran, which eventually prevented the deal from happening. More importantly, after Trump's recent and controversial speech on the JCPOA, Boris Johnson has tried

to distinguish between "changing the JCPOA" and its "cancellation". In his controversial remarks, he emphasized that the US Congress is only calling for a reform in the content of the JCPOA, and not for its cancellation. The British government has promised to Washington to do its best to change the JCPOA to the benefit of the United States. This includes removing clauses related to time limits (Sunset clauses), limiting Iran's missile program, and inspecting Iran's military sites. London is fully in favor of these changes, and any statements made by the English authorities in concluding a deal are merely tactical statements (in order to persuade public opinion).

The third point is about London's regional policy. Undoubtedly, Boris Johnson as the British Foreign Secretary is deeply concerned about the rising costs of London's defeat in the West Asian region. Over the past year, Britain has had lots of failures in the region and has incurred a lot of costs: in Yemen, the direct support of the British government from the Saudi regime for the massacre of men and women and children had no benefits for this country, even the continuation of the Yemen war has led to an increase in Britain's failure

and incapacity in the campaign. In Bahrain, over the past five years, the British government has worked hard to support the Al Khalifa regime. Even Britain has supported actions such as the siege of Bahrain's Shiite leader, "Sheikh Isa Qassim" in the Al-Daraz area. Training Bahrain's police to suppress people, has been another step by British government and security authorities to support the hated regime in Manama. However, the erosion of Bahrain's developments and the shattering of the foundations of the Al-Khalifa government made Britain frightened over Manama's future.

In the two countries of Syria and Iraq, Britain has suffered much tougher failings. In 2013, Britain, along with the United States, tried to use ISIS as an instrument for managing the region's changes. However, the defeat of ISIS in Syria and Iraq and the presence of popular mobilized forces (especially the popular

mobilization in Iraq and Syria) and the strength of the Resistance Front have confused London in its calculations in the region. Thus, Boris Johnson came to Tehran in a period when the cost of Britain's defeats in West Asia is far greater than before. In such a situation, the British authorities are trying to preserve their being rightful as ever-gest in the first place. Basically, Boris Johnson and other British officials should be responsible for their anti-security measures in Iran as well as their anti-Iranian acts during the post-JCPIA period. What is certain is that today, Johnson and other British officials should merely stand in the position of "answering" to the Iranian people and they are in no position to "demand" anything from us. The experience of years and decades has shown that one of the British tricks in face of crisis in its foreign policy, is to lead the game from formal and public diplomacy to "hidden diplomacy.

"The British authorities have been trying to prevent the concentration of public opinion on their Achilles' heels and weaknesses in the field of foreign policy by changing the game and leading it towards the field of hidden diplomacy. Therefore, the diplomatic and foreign policy system of our country should in no way allow the British authorities to implement this policy. Boris Johnson and other English officials know well that if the game is drawn to public diplomacy, they can't defend themselves against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Ultimately, Johnson has no choice but to admit to his country's defeat in the region and to admit to the mistakes his government has made with respect to Iran.

Obviously, any pressure from the British authorities to maintain the status quo and put pressure on Iran to threaten our country will double the cost of London's defeat against Tehran.

Iran's foreign trade balance hits -\$6bn in 11-month period



According to the latest report released by Iran Customs Administration, imports enjoyed a significant 23 percent growth in the same period.

Accordingly, Iran's non-oil exports stood at a considerable five percent growth as compared to the last year's corresponding 11-month period. IRICA put the total non-oil exports value at \$41.69

billion, showing a significant 4.96 percent growth as compared to the same period last year. In total, \$39.719 billion worth of products were exported from the country in the same period.

Meanwhile, Iranian export of non-oil products to China since the beginning of the current Iranian fiscal year up to the end of Iranian month of Bahman (Feb.

22, 2018) increased 11.29 percent as compared to the same period last year, IRICA reported.

It is worth mentioning that customs formalities for exporting 151,892,000 tons of goods has been conducted through a smart and integrated system integrated in all customs offices throughout the country.

The report added that products, valued at \$47.657 billion, were imported into the country, showing a considerable 23.61 percent growth as compared to the same period last year.

Iran's major export products during this period include gas condensates valued at \$6.33 billion, liquefied natural gas valued at \$2.509 billion, liquefied propane valued at \$1.338 billion, methanol valued at \$1.077 billion and light oils and byproducts except gasoline valued at \$1.067 billion, IRICA concluded.

Ardebil tourist attractions



(MNA) – Ardabil province is situated in a mountainous region whose altitude averages 3,000 meters above sea level. It is very cold in winter and mild in summer. The city of Ardabil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities of the country in winter.

Ardabil Province attracts a large number of tourists due to its favorable cool weather.

The northwestern province has natural wonders, historical monuments, many tourist attractions as well as scores of mineral water springs.

Fandoqlou Forest

Fandoqlou Forest is located 10kms southeast of the city of Namin. It is the largest hazelnut hub of the country and annually hosts tens of thousands of visitors.

Neor Lake

The slopes of Baghru Heights, which is 35kms to the southeast of Ardabil, have a beautiful lake named Neor. Neor Lake, which is located 2,500 meters above sea level, has a unique biodiversity.

Shorabil Lake

Shorabil Lake boasts healing minerals and a picturesque landscape. It is a sightseeing site and the main habitat for migratory birds.

Sabalan Heights

Sabalan, with an altitude of 4,811 meters, is the third highest peak in Iran. It is an inactive volcano. There is a small lake on top of the summit. Sabalan is also home to Alvares Ski Resort.

Sarein

Sarein is located 25kms from the provincial capital of Ardabil on the slopes of Sabalan Heights. It is considered one of the top ten tourism hubs of Iran. Most of the tourists to Ardabil Province stopover in Sarein.

Ardebil Village

Ardebil Village is located near the city of Khalkhal. Ardebil Ski Resort is located to the northeast of Khalkhal. Several winter sports festivals have been held there in recent years.

Ardebil mausoleums

The mausoleums of Sheikh Safieddin Ardabili and Sheikh

Kalkhoran are symbols of Islamic-Iranian architecture.

Sheikh Safieddin Mausoleum is located near Ardabil's Aali-Qapu Square. It also includes a mosque, library and school.

The mausoleum has an Islamic architecture.

Sheikh Kalkhoran Mausoleum belongs to Aminoddin Jebreil, the father of Sheikh Safieddin Es'haq, the ancestor of Safavid kings. It is located in Kalkhoran Village in Ardabil.

Souvenirs

Ardabil is well known for its carpets, honey, sweets, roasted sunflower seeds, felt products, woodworks and earthenware. Its traditional food is 'Aash-e Doogh'-a sour yoghurt soup with chickpeas and vegetables.

Ardebil climate

Ardabil province is situated in a mountainous region whose altitude averages 3,000 meters above sea level. It is very cold in winter and mild in summer. The city of Ardabil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities of the country in winter.

Kerman province land of natural wonders

(MNA)—After a lapse of 5,000 years since the departure of dwarfs from the city, a large swathe of this prehistoric region lies buried and the migration of Shahdad's dwarfs remains clouded in mystery.

Kerman province is a land of natural wonders and apart from being a historical asset, it is a symbol of Iran's biodiversity.

Unique ecosystem

Keshit Valley, which is located near Keshit Village, has a unique ecosystem.

The dryness of Shahdad's desert makes one assume that it could be a miserable place, but Keshit Valley in Lut Desert is actually a paradise in hell.

Keshit Valley is located on the southern bank of Lut Desert. If tourists seek to access this region by road, they should come from Shahdad.

Keshit Village has an old fabric. It has a castle by the same name belonging to the Seljuk era. Keshit is the only breathing place in the heart of the desert.

There is a waterfall — with a height of 12 meters — at the end of the valley where a pond full of limpid water is spread over 600 sq.m. Special ferns surround the pond.

Hottest spot

Gandom-e Beryan area in the desert of Shahdad is known to have recorded the highest temperature on the earth's surface: 67 degrees centigrade in summer. It is named after a hill with an area of 480 square kilometers, which is covered with blackened volcanic lava. The hill has been identified by Iranian expert, Professor Parviz Kordavani, as the world's hottest place. Though this declaration has been disputed, most scientists agree that the desert safely ranks as one of the hottest spots in the world. Gandom-e Beryan or Rige Soukhteh is located 80 km north of Shahdad city in Lut Desert. Because of a lack of access



roads, only experts with high-tech facilities and locals familiar with desert routes visit the place. Shahdad, the ancient name of which is Khabis, is located 100 km east of Kerman on the western side of Lut Desert. Nobody thought an ancient civilization could exist in this desert until 1946. However, following studies conducted by the Geography Faculty of Tehran University in 1946, potteries discovered in Shahdad proved that a civilization flourished in Lut Desert.

Excavation phases

Given the importance of the issue, a group of archeologists visited the area and conducted studies that lent credence to prehistoric settlement (end of 4th millennium BC and beginning of 3rd millennium BC).

Scientific and archeological excavations were conducted in this region during 1948-56.

Cemeteries belonging to 2nd and 3rd millennium BC and copper furnaces were discovered in the eight excavation phases.

Relics discovered in Shahdad's cemeteries included numerous potteries and brassware.

Seventeen years after the victory of Islamic Revolution in 1979, archeological explorations were resumed in Shahdad, Iran Daily wrote. The four subsequent excavation phases, which uncovered houses and workshops, clarified many ambiguities regarding the architecture and settlement of Shahdad's people. One of the areas was named Farmers District, after

ancient ploughs and enclosed lands were discovered there.

Another was named Jewelers District following the excavation of precious beads.

Archeologists have unearthed many valuable architectural remnants and relics from 3rd millennium BC after completing a total of 10 excavation phases.

Shahdad's ancient region is spread over 60 kilometers in the heart of Lut Desert. The city includes workshops, residential districts and cemeteries.

Archeological studies in the residential district known as City of Dwarfs revealed the presence of sub-districts in which jewelers, craftsmen and farmers lived.

Inhabitants of the City of Dwarfs abandoned the area 5,000 years ago due to drought conditions and never returned.

Over 800 ancient graves have been excavated there during the excavation phases.

Strange architecture

An interesting aspect about the City of Dwarfs in Shahdad is the strange architecture of its houses, alleys and equipment discovered.

Its walls, ceilings, furnaces, shelves and the equipments used could only be used by dwarfs.

After news about the City of Dwarfs spread, rumors circulated about the discovery of a dwarf's remains. The case involved a dwarf mummy with a height of 25 cm, which the smugglers attempted to sell for 80 billion rials in Germany. However, two smugglers were arrested in this regard and the mummy was confiscated.

After a lapse of 5,000 years since the departure of dwarfs from the city, a large swathe of this prehistoric region lies buried and the migration of Shahdad's dwarfs remains clouded in mystery.

Many would like to know why the dwarfs covered the doors of their homes with mud and never returned. This requires allocation of funds for conducting further archeological studies in the City of Dwarfs.

By: Mohammad Ghaderi

Short Economic News

France's long history of playing with Iran

Acc.to the (MNA) In the following report provided by MNA staff members, a summary of France's playing with Iran at different stages is discussed with the hope that our Foreign Ministry takes a tougher stance against the European country.

French foreign minister has finally arrived in Tehran

The French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian arrived in Tehran early on Sunday March 5, 2018 and so far, he has met with Iran's SNSC Secretary Ali Shamkhani and his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif. Jean-Yves Le Drian had postponed his trip to Tehran, which had been planned for January 5, 2018.

The decision for postponing the trip came as Iranian President Hassan Rouhani held a phone conversation with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron on January 3, 2018, calling on France to "take its legal responsibility to combat terrorism and violence," criticizing that a terrorist group, called Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), has a base in Paris, operating against the Iranian people and provoking and persuading people to take violent actions in Iran.

France's support for terrorist MKO

Mohahedin-e Khalq (MKO) is a terrorist organization in exile that has carried out a lot of brutal attacks against civilian and government officials in Iran killing a large number of them.

The terrorist MKO has been supported by the Western governments since its founding.

The terrorist organization operates freely in France and holds regular conferences in French capital Paris every year in order to recruit many more terrorists. They were involved in the recent riots in the Iran. On January 5, 2018, Iran's intelligence ministry said on Friday that a MKO



terrorist cell was discovered and dismantled in Boroujerd, Lorestan province, saying they were involved in sabotaging actions during recent protests. Prior to that on July 2, 2017, Iran's foreign minister had warned against activities of the MKO in France, saying "giving permission to carry out activities to a group which is loathed by the Iranian people, has a dark history of assassinations, had sided with Saddam regime, and has been making attempts to carry out attacks on the Iranian soil leaves a black stain on the countries that cooperate with such groups." Zarif added that the MKO had become an instruments in the hands of Iran's enemies.

Now with all these in mind, the Iranian policy makers are expected to transfer Iranian people and government's worries about the terrorist MKO's activities in France.

France's playing with the JCPOA

The level of hostility of the current US government towards the nuclear deal with Iran is clear to everyone, but Europeans' position toward the pact is different. Some of them verbally continue to support the implementation process and want to keep things going. In this regard, Tehran has repeatedly stated that oral support is not enough and the Europeans have to take action against US's moves in violation of the JCPOA. Foad Izadi, professor of American studies at the University of Tehran believes that France has taken a hypocritical stance

towards the nuclear deal with Iran and wants to relate the JCPOA with Iran's missile program.

The continuation of making anti-Iran accusations and uncalculated remarks

In the past months, French senior officials including President Emmanuel Macron and Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian has uttered baseless claims and accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran. They have explicitly named Iran as a threat to the region and the world and these claims have been of course condemned by statements issued by the Iranian foreign ministry. However, the effectiveness of these claims, considering their frequent expression, can be sized up.

Speaking to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, Le Drian criticized Iran for destabilizing measures in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. "The other condition for building trust is keeping one's word. The destabilizing actions carried out by Iran in Syria, in Iraq, in Lebanon, in Yemen, or in the Gulf region—whether directly or through the groups it supports—these initiatives cannot be tolerated. And I'm stated this very bluntly. Likewise, for ballistic activities carried out by Iran, which are incompatible with the resolutions of the Security Council. This attitude runs contrary to our interests, and runs contrary to the U.S.'s interests. This attitude is a threat to the security of countries in the region. We certainly share the objective to curb this policy, because he cannot accept interfering and the desire for hegemony that they testify to."

While visiting UAE and Saudi Arabia, French President Macron repeated in Dubai that he wanted to keep the landmark 2015 nuclear deal, which Trump has

challenged. But he said he was “very concerned” by Iran’s ballistic missile program, mentioning a missile fired from Yemen and intercepted by Saudi Arabia on Saturday, and raised the prospect of possible sanctions with regard to those activities. “There are extremely strong concerns about Iran. There are negotiations we need to start on Iran’s ballistic missiles,” he said. “Like what was done in 2015 for the nuclear activities, it’s necessary to put a framework in place for Iran’s ballistic activities and open a process, with sanctions if needed, of negotiation that would enable (that).” It is worth to mention that in the past months, Mr. Macron shared the same views against Iran in his meetings with US President Trump and Israeli PM Netanyahu. The French Foreign Minister Le Drian has also made threats against Iran saying that if Iran does not take care about the concerns over its missile program, new sanctions may be levied on Iran.

Of course, it is to be borne in mind that the negative report card of the French in dealing with the Iranian nation is not limited to these remarks in regards with the JCPOA, Iran’s missile program, and defense capabilities.

HIV-Infected Bloods Case

The case of “HIV-Infected Bloods” dates back to approximately three decades ago and came to being in the course of Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988). However, the case is one of the other unpleasant and unforgettable measures taken by the French authorities against Iranians.

Mérieux Institute, which currently is at the ownership of French Sanofi-Aventis Company, exported HIV-contaminated coagulation factors, for being used by patients suffering from hemophilia, to some countries including West Germany, Italy, Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran.

In the same direction, exporting HIV-infected bloods claimed lives of many patients suffering from hemophilia.

The necessity of Iran’s Foreign Ministry taking legal action against France’s baseless accusations

With all the above considerations, the widespread accusations made by Paris authorities against Tehran indicate that the approach taken by French authorities after the implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is based on dou-

ble-standard, bias, an unilateral policy.

In this regard, Naqavi Hosseini Spokesman for Parliament National Security Commission said, “it has already been reiterated that Iran’s defensive power is not negotiable and in my opinion, Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs should take urgent action against the issue seriously.”

“In general, the respected government of the Islamic Republic of Iran should revise its relations with French authorities categorically,” he maintained. For his part, Ali-Akbar Velayati Senior Advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in International Affairs pointed to baseless remarks raised by French officials with regard to renegotiating with Iran’s missile power and said, “defensive preparedness is of the initial and inalienable rights of any nation and no country is allowed to interfere in internal affairs of other countries.”

Iran’s Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Ghasemi also showed harsh reaction in this respect and said, “the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will never allow others to undermine its missile power since it is for peaceful purposes.”

Moscow to stage Iranian play ‘Macbeth Zar’ on World Theater Day

Acc.to the (MNA) – The Iranian musical comedy ‘Macbeth Zar’, a mix of Shakespeare’s tragedy with a local Iranian rite, will go on stage in Moscow concurrent with the World Theater Day, March 27.

‘Macbeth Zar’ is a production of Titowak Theater Group and Baran-Zagros, and directed by Ebrahim Poshtekouhi. It is a musical comedy that blends the Zar ritual of Iran’s southern Hormozgan Province with William Shakespeare’s tragedy ‘Macbeth’. Zar is the term for an evil spirit that in southern parts of Iran is believed to possess individuals. A Zar ritual is the practice of exorcising such spirits



from the possessed individual, which comprises food and musical performances culminating in ecstatic dancing. In Poshtekouhi’s production, Macbeth lives on Hormoz Island, and kills Duncan, the chief organizer of

the ritual called *Babazar*, in order to become the king of those possessed by the evil spirits, called *Ahl-e Hava*.

‘Macbeth Zar’ was the winner of the New Experience Section at the 28th Tehran International Theater Festival in 2009. It also went on to grab the award for the best theater ensemble and best performance in Moscow Nights Theater Festival in 2012.

France’s Avignon Festival and Armenia’s HighFest Theater Festival also hosted the play.

Poshtekouhi has been invited by the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory to stage ‘Macbeth Zar’ on March 27, concurrent with the World Theater Day.

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Key Economic Indicators in 1395

Population and Labor Force

Population	79.9 million
Urban	59.1 million
Rural ¹	20.8 million
Population Growth	1.2 percent
Population Density	48.5 per sq km
Active Population	25.8 million
Unemployment Rate	12.4 percent
Urban	13.7 percent
Rural	8.9 percent
Male	10.5 percent
Female	20.7 percent
15-29 years old	25.9 percent
15-24 years old	29.2 percent

Source: Statistical Center of Iran (SCI).

¹ Includes non-resident population.

External Sector (million US\$)

Current Account Balance	16,388
Trade Balance (goods account)	20,843
Exports (FOB)	83,978
Imports (FOB)	63,135
Total External Debt (year-end)	8,481
Exchange Rate (US\$/IRR)	
Interbank Market (average)	Rls. 31,389

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

Liquidity (M2)	23.2
Money (M1)	19.3
Quasi-money	23.8
Non-public Sector Deposits	23.9

Real Sector

GDP Growth (1390=100)

Oil	12.5 percent
Non-oil	3.3 percent

Performance of 1395 (current prices; trillion Rls.)

GDP (at basic price)	12,723
Gross Fixed Capital Formation	2,664
Private Consumption Expenditures	6,495
Public Consumption Expenditures	1,752

Government Fiscal Position (trillion Rls.)

Revenues	1,459.9
Expenses	2,070.2
Disposal of Non-financial Assets	742.8
Acquisition of Non-financial Assets	421.0
Net Lending/Borrowing	288.5

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

Average of 1395 compared with average of 1394 (inflation rate)	9.0 percent
Esfand 1395 compared with previous month	2.0 percent
Esfand 1395 compared with same month previous year	11.9 percent

Tehran Stock Exchange

Tehran Stock Exchange Price Index (TEPIX) (year-end)	77,230.0
Value of Shares and Rights Traded	Rls. 537.9 trillion
Volume of Shares and Rights Traded	252.6 billion

Source: CBI