

## *The Future ahead*

It is an ancient saying that even the stormiest sea, will sooner or later be calm again. So there can be little doubt that the poisonous atmosphere that currently covers the entire Middle East region, particularly the relations between our two countries, must sooner or later disappear.

The truth of the coming of that brighter day is more than ever apparent from news and statements emanating from the official authorities of both countries in recent days.

Now more than ever, it is imperative that the respective Chambers of Commerce cooperate fully with one another to urge responsible bodies in the both countries to take the required and necessary actions towards reaching our common economic goals to prosperity as fast as possible.

Only positive actions by the both countries' can demonstrate their goodwill in this regard and can be regarded as a fundamental first step in the process of blossoming economic activity between the us and the consequent establishment of peace and security in both the region and the world.

*Dr. Amir Houshang Amini*

## Iran's foreign trade During the five month of the year 1396

(20 March 2017 to 20 August 2017)

According to the statistics of the I.R of Iran's Customs Department, the

Iran's foreign trades volume during the five 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 five month of the year 1396

Activity	Five month of the year 1396		Five month of the year 1395		Percent of changes	
	Weight (Thousand tons)	Value (Million Dollar)	Weight (Thousand tons)	Value (Million Dollar)	Weight	Value
<b>Export</b>	14.225	19.442	13.285	16.690	7.07	16.49
<b>Import</b>	48.041	17.193	52.237	18.088	-8.03	-4.95

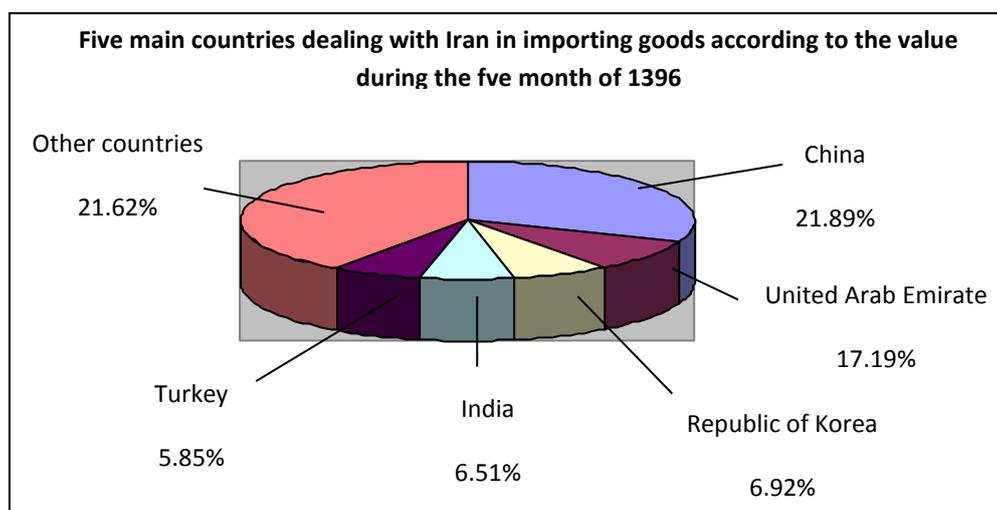
### Imports:

During the five month of 1396, the most value and weight of imports, at the first rank is "rice" with 963 million dollars and a value of 4.95 percent.

The most important imports during the five month of 1396, have been done with countries, as follows: 1) "China" with 1.554 thousand tons and 4.256 million

Dollars and 1.93 percent of weight and 21.89 percent of value, 2) "United Arab Emirates" with 1.715 thousand Tons and 3.341 million Dollars and 12.06 percent of weight and 17.19 percent of value, 3) "Republic of Korea" with 540 thousand tons and 1.346 million Dollars and 3.79 percent of weight and 6.92

percent of value, 4) "India" with 1.116 thousand tons and 1.266 million Dollars and 7.84 percent of weight and 6.51 percent of value and 5) "Turkey" with 687 thousand tons and 1.138 million Dollars and 4.83 percent of weight and 5.85 percent of value.



### Exports:

During the five month of 1396, a compound of exported goods with the

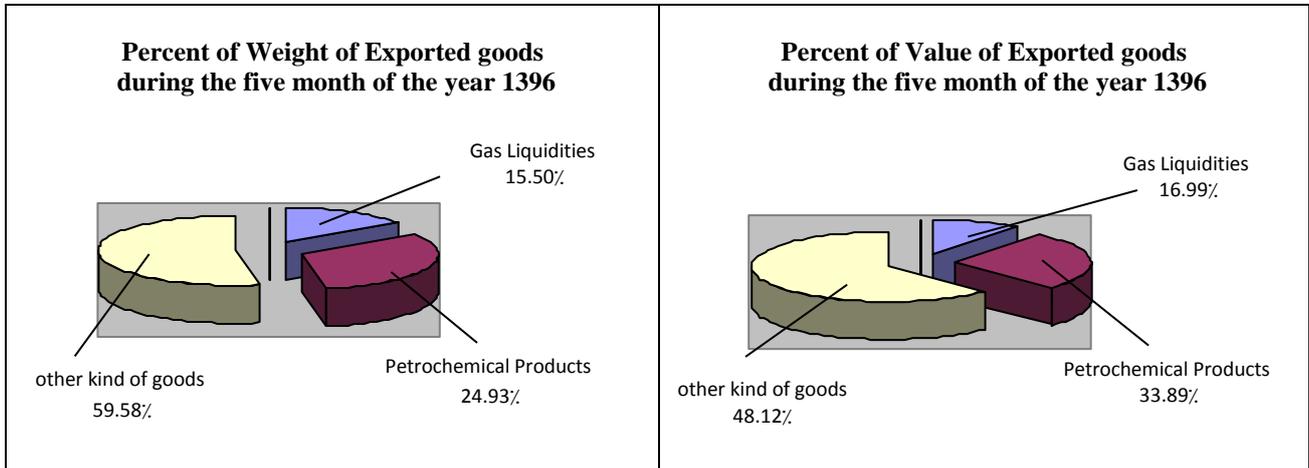
separation of gas liquidities, petrochemical products and other kind of goods such as

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	Five month of the year 1396		Five month of the year 1395		Share of Total	
	Weight (Thousand Tons)	value (Million Dollar)	Weight (Thousand Tons)	value (Million Dollar)	Weight	Value
Petrochemical products	11.977	5.999	12.316	5.880	-2.74	2.03
Gas liquidities	7.445	2.920	7.851	3.087	-5.18	-5.39
Other kind of goods	28.619	8.274	32.070	9.122	-10.76	-9.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>48.041</b>	<b>17.193</b>	<b>52.237</b>	<b>18.088</b>	<b>-8.03</b>	<b>-4.95</b>

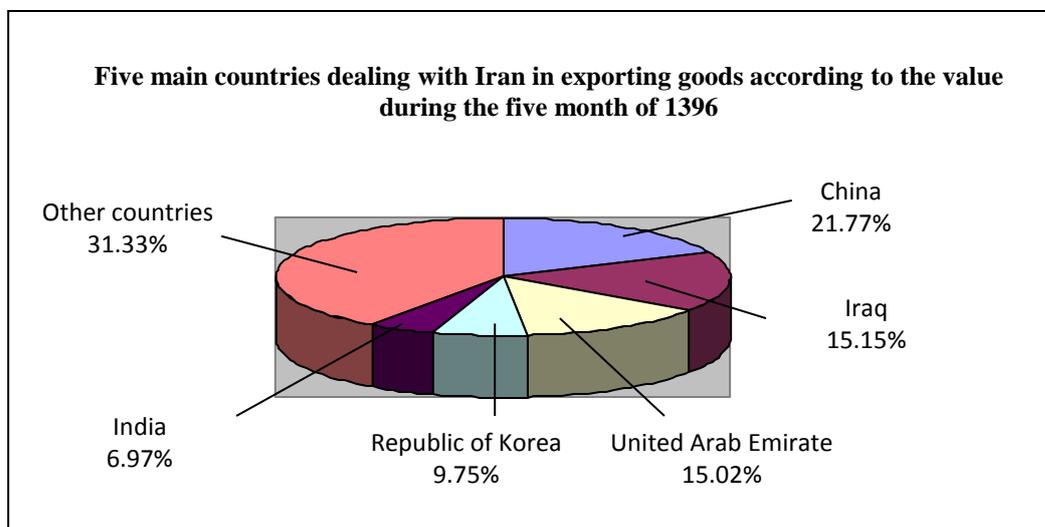
As indicated in the table, during the five month of 1396 “Petrochemical Products” contains 24.93 percent of weight and 34.89 percent of value and “Gas Liquidities” contains 15.50 percent of weight and 16.99 percent of value, of Exports.



During the five month of 1396, most of exports have done with the countries, as follows: 1) "China" with 13.492 thousand tons and value of 3.743 million Dollars and 28.08 percent of weight and 21.77 percent of value, 2) "Iraq" with 5.231 thousand tons value of 2.604

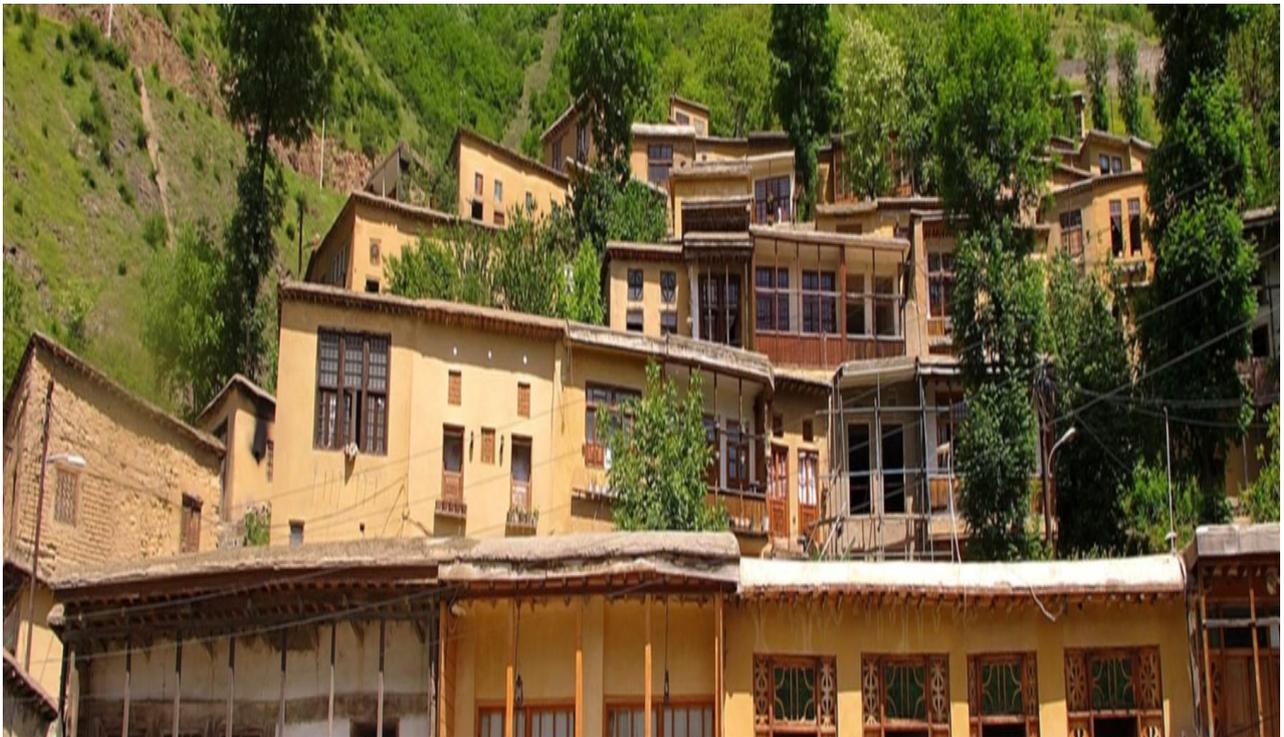
million Dollars and 10.89 percent of weight and 15.15 percent of value, 3) "United Arab Emirate" with 7.709 thousand tons and value of 2.583 Million Dollars and 16.05 percent of weight and 15.02 percent of value, 4) "Republic of Korea" with 4.042 thousand tons and

value of 1.676 million Dollars and 8.41 percent of weight and 9.75 percent of value, and 5) "India" with 4.385 thousand tons and value of 1.199 million dollars and 9.13 percent of weight and 6.97 percent of value.



# “Masouleh”

*A small historical mountain village in the southern Caspian coastal region*



*view of a part of Masouleh*

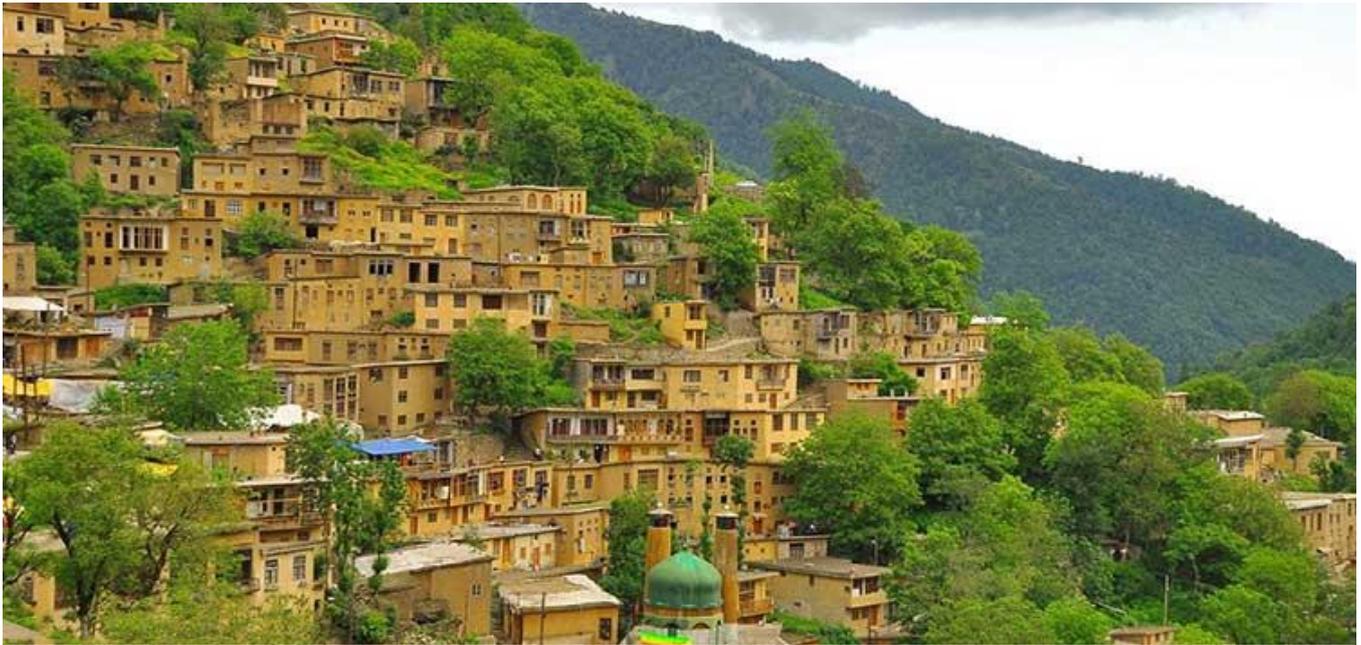
*Masouleh is one of the most unique, traditional, ancient Town or village Of not only Gilan Province, but the country of Iran, with The most exotic attraction at southern part of Caspian coastal region, and plenty of domestic and foreign Tourist attractions, and precious architectural structure of housing.*

## **Introduction:**

as we are all aware Iran with a surface of 1648000sq.km, and four distinct seasons, Mountainous area and... consist of 30 different Provinces. One of these Provinces called Gilan,

which is situated in southern part of Caspian Coastal region and covers an area of 14709 sq km, which is bounded on the north by the Caspian Sea, on the west by Ardabil, on the east by

Mazanderan and on the south by Zanzan province. Gilan is the most humid region in Iran, but with plenty of natural beauty, wildlife and other domestic and foreign Tourists attractions, like:



*view of a part of Masouleh*

luxuriant green forests, mountainous area and delicate handicrafts, and traditional villages. One of the most well-known attractive town or village in this Province is Masouleh, which is as a traditional village, especially with its domestic culture and structure of its unique Town and housing Architectural structure, most visited village in the

Caspian coastal region. Masouleh is located in the north west of "SOUMAHEH SARA" and south west of "Abkenar", which is situated approximately 32 km west of Fuman and 60 km in the southwest of Rasht, the capital of Province Gilan, which is located in the center of the plateau of Gilan. The village is 1,050 meters

above sea level in the Alborz mountain range. The village itself has a difference in elevation of 100 meters.

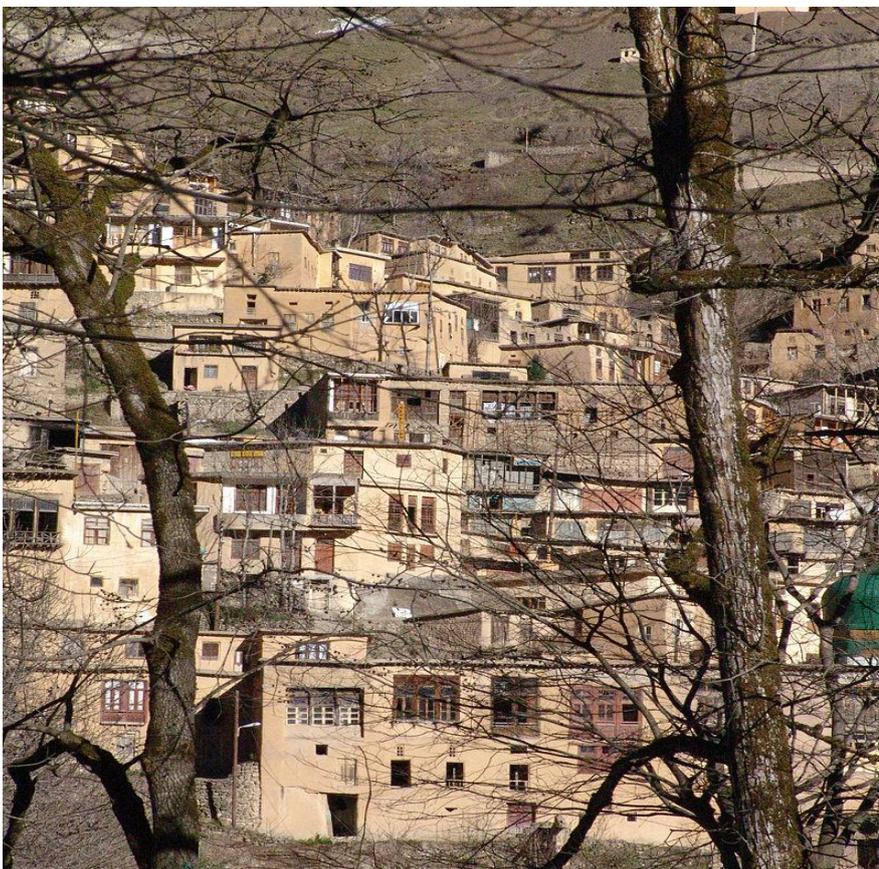
"Khortab" redirects here. For the village in Lahijan County, see Khortab, Lahijan. For the village in Mazandaran Province, see Khortab Rud.

Although it has been written that the community was established around 10 AD, the province of Gilan has a long history. The first village of Masouleh was established around 1006 AD, 6 km northwest of the current city, and it is called Old-Masouleh (Kohneh Masouleh in Persian). People moved from Old-Masouleh to the current city because of pestilence and attacks from neighbouring communities.

Rood-Khane Masouleh is the river passing through the city, with a waterfall located just 200 meters away from the village. It's cut-off by snow during the winter months. Fog is the predominant weather feature of Masouleh.

#### Architecture of Town and Housing Area

Masouleh architecture is unique. The buildings have been built into the mountain and are interconnected. Courtyards and roofs both serve as pedestrian areas similar to streets. Masouleh does not allow any motor vehicles to enter, due to its unique layout. It is the only city



*view of a part of Masouleh*

in Iran with such a prohibition. However, the small streets and many stairs simply wouldn't make it possible for vehicles to enter.

The spectacular architecture of Masouleh is popularly known as "The yard of the building above is the roof of the building below".

Yellow clay coats the exterior of most buildings in Masouleh. This allows for better visibility in the fog.

Buildings are mostly two stories (1st floor and 'ground' floor) made of adobe, rods and bole. A small living room, big guest room, winter room, hall, WC and balcony are usually found in 1st floor. A cold closet, barn and stable are located on the floor below, which are connected to the upper floor by several narrow steps inside the building. There are four main local communities at the city named: "Maza-var" (meaning beside the Mosque) at the south, "Khane-var" (beside homes) at the East, "Kashe-sar" (stretched on top) at the North, and, "Assa-mahala" (Assad community) at the West. Apparently, down town is the Market (Bazaar) area and also the main mosque of the city, named "O-ne-ben-ne Ali" (Awn Ibn Mohammad Ibn Ali Ibn. Abi Taleb) built in 969 AD.

space. Chinese knotting is not specifically a certain decoration

or a means of conveying the emotions of the artist, but also the point of making them regarding to two ways: acting on the basis of their own knowledge and guiding others towards this knowledge. When a spectator looks upon the works of Chinese Knotting, they're first affected by its beauty and especially its discipline, but after some more contemplation they are driven into the art's mystical meanings. Girih tile is a part of Islamic architecture and art while its different types are used in the following arts: Wood carving, tiling, plaster, Khātām, brick work, mirror work, stone work and in carpentry as fences, door and window, wooden decorations and wood carving of Minbar and in blacksmith Iranian architecture.

Girih tile is an intelligent interaction of aesthetics and function. Islamic artists have applied local materials in accordance to the functional requirements and cultural issues of each region. The valuable examples of this art are observed in historical city of Masouleh located in the mountainous area of Masouleh in Gilan (Iran).

Wood is one of the highly applied materials in traditional architecture of Gilan with its different types.

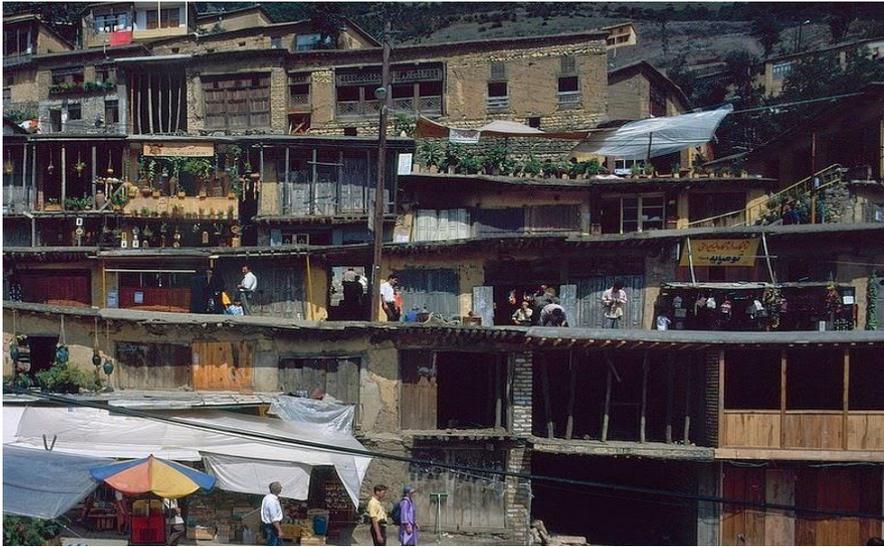
One of the greatest arts is seen in the historical city of Masouleh with Girih tiles. Wood is used in this region due to its climatic condition and the need to a good thermal isolation against heat and cold weather. Also, wood is the first material being applied in openings. Girih tiles decorations in this historical city are abundant in the buildings while their main façade is to the south. One of the advantages of using Girih tiles in openings of this historical city is to control the direct light in different seasons of year. The aesthetic aspect is on the second priority.

The beauty of Girih tiles, their coordination and part to total tendency in all openings have improved the unity and beauty of the historical buildings of Masouleh. Sash window, other meshes and Telar with combination of decorative plants in the façade of buildings in Masouleh have increased the aesthetics of this city. Historical city of Masouleh is a good model for sustainable architecture and its final aim is respecting the culture and friendly relationship with nature and improving the life style of its residents.

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*view of a part of Masouleh*



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from Fuman which is reachable by same mean of transport from Rasht. There are daily buses from Rasht to Tehran. There is also a direct bus connection from Tehran to Fuman and back but it might be harder to find.

There is a path on the other side of the village. It is a very nice walk.

There are restaurants catering for tourists. Also, you can buy tasty fresh made bread from market, other supplies from a couple of shops and prepare something to eat yourself.

Many people in the village rent out rooms and this is probably the cheapest and most atmospheric way to spend the night.

There is a couple of small hotels which have decent size rooms with bathroom and kitchen. In the bottom of the village there is a larger hotel.

There is also internet cafes and there are public telephones available. Due to avoiding utilization of human figures and abstaining from idolatry, decorations have specific geometry in Islamic art and architecture. One of the striking characteristics of the knots (gereh) that has caused to dynamicity throughout its thousand-year history is its regeneration and diversification of the diverse geometric properties.

Girih tiling decoration is part of geometric arts in the traditional buildings of the historic town of Masouleh dates back to eight hundred years.

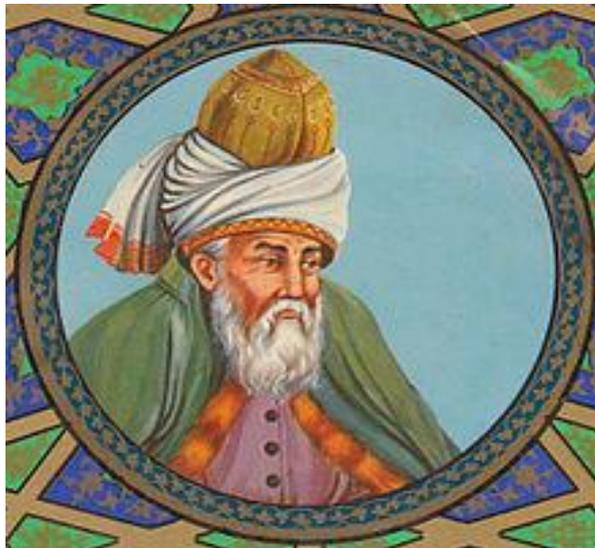
Traditional and local architects of this historical town have adopted special and intellectual plans for creating visual attractions in expression and creation of girih tiling in the walls of the monuments. One of these valuable solutions is diverse geometric decorations patterns. Since the main facades of the houses in this town are directly located in the sunrise direction and it is accepted landscape for the citizens of this historical town, so the artists have shown their art and style in this part of the monument and built beautiful and harmonic diverse wooden windows and variety of these patterns are seen in all five neighborhoods in this town. Girih tiling consists of straight and broken lines on a regular basis that could be reasonably expanded in the surface.

Geometric designs (both normal and abnormal) and purely geometric interlaced patterns involve mental imaginary forms which are essentially superior to the perception based naturalistic images. The patterns were not aimed to capture the reality perceived through the eyes, but they were supposed to create a glimpse of astonishing beauty in the artist's creative mind or soul. Due to avoiding utilization of human figures and abstaining from idolatry, decorations have specific geometry in Islamic art and architecture. One of the striking characteristics of the knots (girih) that has caused to dynamicity throughout its thousand year history is its regeneration and diversification of the diverse geometric properties. Girih tiles are used in Islamic art and architecture.

Iranian Chinese Knotting is one of is one of traditional fields and professions that depends on geometrical patterns and on the first encounter, the spectator, is subconsciously affected by its discipline. Geometrical patterns, which are the source for the art Chinese Knotting, usually contain a polygon star in the middle (the Shamseh) and some other geometrical figures so that they can cover the remaining.

# Mowlana

## Jalāl ed-Dīn Rūmī



Artistic depiction of Rumi, 1980

He is most commonly called *Rumi* in English. His full name is *Jalāl ed-Dīn Muḥammad Balkhī* (Persian: جلال‌الدین محمد بلخی) or *Jalāl ad-Dīn Muḥammad Rūmī* (جلال‌الدین محمد رومی). *Jalal ed-Din* is an Arabic name meaning "Glory of the Faith".

*Balkhī* and *Rūmī* are his *nisbas*, meaning "from Balkh" and "from Rūm" (Roman Anatolia), respectively.

According to the authoritative Rumi biographer Franklin Lewis of the University of Chicago, "[t]he Anatolian peninsula which

had belonged to the Byzantine, or eastern Roman empire, had only relatively recently been conquered by Muslims and even when it came to be controlled by Turkish Muslim rulers, it was still known to Arabs, Persians and Turks as the geographical area of Rum.

As such, there are a number of historical personages born in or associated with Anatolia known as Rumi, a word borrowed from Arabic literally meaning 'Roman,' in which context Roman refers to subjects of the Byzantine Empire

or simply to people living in or things associated with Anatolia."

He is widely known by the sobriquet *Mowlana/Molānā* (Persian: مولانا Persian pronunciation: [moulɒːnɒ]) in Iran and popularly known as *Mevlānā* in Turkey. *Mawlānā* (مولانا) is a term of Arabic origin, meaning "our master".

The term مولوی *Mawlawī/Mowlavi* (Persian) and *Mevlevi* (Turkish), also of Arabic origin, meaning "my master", is also frequently used for him.

## Life:



*Bowl of Reflections* with Rumi's poetry early 13th century. Brooklyn Museum

Rumi was born to native Persian-speaking parents, originally from the Balkh, in present-day Afghanistan. He was born either in Wakhsh, a village located on the Wakhsh River in the greater Balkh region in present-day Tajikistan, or in the city of Balkh, located in present-day Afghanistan.

Greater Balkh was at that time a major center of Persian culture and Sufism had developed there for several centuries. The most important influences upon Rumi, besides his father, were the Persian poets Attar and Sanai. Rumi expresses his appreciation: "Attar was the spirit, Sanai his eyes twain, And in time thereafter, Came we in their train" and mentions in another poem: "Attar has traversed the seven cities of Love, We are still at the turn of one street". His father was also connected to the spiritual lineage of Najm al-Din Kubra.

Rumi lived most of his life under the Personate Seljuq Sultanate of Rum, where he produced his works and died in 1273 AD. He was buried in Konya and his shrine became a place of pilgrimage.<sup>[37]</sup> Following his death, his followers and his son Sultan Walad founded the Mevlevi Order, also known as the Order of the Whirling Dervishes,



Double-page illuminated frontispiece, 1st book (daftar) of the Collection of poems (*Masnavi-i ma'navi*), 1461 manuscript

famous for its Sufi dance known as the Sama ceremony. He was laid to rest beside his father, and over his remains a splendid shrine was erected. A hagiographical account of him is described in Shams ud-Din Ahmad Aflāki's *Manāqib ul-Ārifīn* (written between 1318 and 1353). This hagiographical account of his biography needs to be treated with care as it contains both legends and facts about Rumi.<sup>1</sup> For example, Professor Franklin Lewis, University of Chicago, in the most complete biography on Rumi has a separate section for the hagiographical biography on Rumi and actual biography about him.

Rumi's father was Bahā od-din Walad, a theologian, jurist and a mystic from Balkh, who was also known by the followers of Rumi as Sultan al-Ulama or "Sultan of the Scholars." The popular hagiographer assertions that have claimed the family's descent from the Caliph Abu Bakr does not hold on closer examination and is rejected by modern scholars. The claim of maternal descent from the Kharazmshah for Rumi or his father is also seen as a non-

historical hagiographical tradition designed to connect the family with royalty, but this claim is rejected for chronological and historical reasons. The most complete genealogy offered for the family stretches back to six or seven generations to famous Hanafi Jurists.

We do not learn the name of Baha al-Din's mother in the sources, but only that he referred to her as "Māmi" (Colloquial Persian for Māma) and that she was a simple woman and that she lived to the 1200s. The mother of Rumi was Mu'mina Khātūn. The profession of the family for several generations was that of Islamic preachers of the liberal Hanafi rite and this family tradition was continued by Ḥami (see his *Fihī Ma Fih* and *Seven Sermons*) and Sultan Walad

When the Mongols invaded Central Asia sometime between 1215 and 1220, Baha od-Din Walad, with his whole family and a group of disciples, set out westwards. According to hagiographical account which is not agreed upon by all Rumi scholars, Rumi encountered one of the most famous mystic Persian poets, Attar, in the Iranian city of Nishapur, located in the province of Khorāsān. Attar immediately recognized Rumi's spiritual eminence. He saw the father walking ahead of the son and said, "Here comes a sea followed by an ocean." He gave the boy his *Asrār-nāma*, a book about the entanglement of the soul in the material world. This meeting had a deep impact on the eighteen-year-old Rumi and later on became the inspiration for his works.

From Nishapur, Walad and his entourage set out for Baghdad,

meeting many of the scholars and Sufis of the city. From Baghdad they went to Hejaz and performed the pilgrimage at Mecca. The migrating caravan then passed through Damascus, Malatya, Erzincan, Sivas, Kayseri and Nigde. They finally settled in Karaman for seven years; Rumi's mother and brother both died there. In 1225, Rumi married Gowhar Khatun in Karaman. They had two sons: Sultan Walad and Ala-eddin Chalabi. When his wife died, Rumi married again and had a son, Amir Alim Chalabi, and a daughter, Malakeh Khatun.

On 1 May 1228, most likely as a result of the insistent invitation of 'Alā' od-Din Key-Qobād, ruler of Anatolia, Baha' od-Din came and finally settled in Konya in Anatolia within the westernmost territories of the Seljuk Sultanate of Rum.

Baha' od-Din became the head of

a madrassa (religious school) and when he died, Rumi, aged twenty-five, inherited his position as the Islamic molvi. One of Baha od-Din's students, Sayyed Burhan od-Din Muhaqqiq Termazi, continued to train Rumi in the Shariah as well as the Tariqa, especially that of Rumi's father. For nine years, Rumi practiced Sufism as a disciple of Burhan ud-Din until the latter died in 1240 or 1241. Rumi's public life then began: he became an Islamic Jurist, issuing fatwas and giving sermons in the mosques of Konya. He also served as a Molvi (Islamic teacher) and taught his adherents in the madrassa.

During this period, Rumi also travelled to Damascus and is said to have spent four years there.

It was his meeting with the dervish Shams-e Tabrizi on 15 November 1244 that completely changed his life. From an accomplished teacher and jurist, Rumi was transformed into an ascetic.

Shams had travelled throughout the Middle East searching and praying for someone who could "endure my comp-any".

A voice said to him, "What will you give in return?" Shams replied, "My head!" The voice then said, "The one you seek is Jalal ud-Din of Ko-nya." On the night of 5 December 1248, as Rumi and Shams were talking, Shams was called to the back door.

He went out, never to be seen again. It is

rumored that Shams was murdered with the connivance of Rumi's son, 'Ala' od-Din; if so, Shams indeed gave his head for the privilege of mystical friendship.

Rumi's love for, and his bereavement at the death of, Shams found their expression in an outpouring of lyric poems, *Divan-e Shams-e Tabrizi*. He himself went out searching for Shams and journeyed again to Damascus. There, he realized:

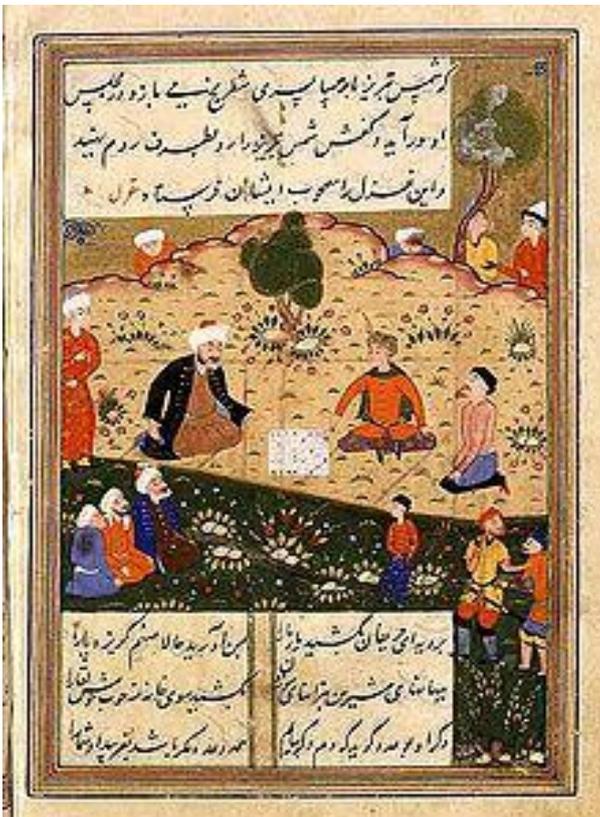
Why should I seek? I am the same as  
He. His essence speaks through me.  
I have been looking for myself

Mowlana had been spontaneously composing *ghazals* (Persian poems), and these had been collected in the *Divan-i Kabir* or *Diwan Shams Tabrizi*. Rumi found another companion in Salah Od-Din-e Zarküb, a goldsmith. After Salah ud-Din's death, Rumi's scribe and favourite student, Hussam-e Chalabi, assumed the role of Rumi's companion. One day, the two of them were wandering through the Meram vineyards outside Konya when Hussam described to Rumi an idea he had had: "If you were to write a book like the *Ilāhīnāma* of Sanai or the *Manteq ut-Tayr* of 'Attar, it would become the companion of many troubadours. They would fill their hearts from your work and compose music to accompany it." Rumi smiled and took out a piece of paper on which were written the opening eighteen lines of his *Masnavi*, beginning with:

Listen to the reed and the tale it tells,

How it sings of separation...

Hussam implored Rumi to write more. Rumi spent the next twelve years of his life in Anatolia



A page of a copy c. 1503 of the  
*Dīwān-e Shams-e Tabriz-i*

dictating the six volumes of this masterwork, the *Masnavi*, to Hussam.

In December 1273, Rumi fell ill; he predicted his own death and composed the well-known *ghazal*, which begins with the verse:

How doest thou know what sort of king I have within me as companion?

Do not cast thy glance upon my golden face, for I have iron legs. Rumi died on 17 December 1273 in Konya; his body was interred beside that of his father, and a splendid shrine, the *Yeşil Türbe* (Green Tomb, *قبة الخضراء*; today the Mevlâna Museum), was erected over his place of burial. His epitaph reads:

از جمادی مُردم و نامی شدم	I died to the mineral state and became a plant,
وز نما مُردم به حیوان برزدم	I died to the vegetable state and reached animality,
مُردم از حیوانی و آدم شدم	I died to the animal state and became a man,
پس چه ترسم کی ز مردن کم شدم؟	Then what should I fear? I have never become less from dying.
حمله دیگر بمیرم از بشر	At the next charge (forward) I will die to human nature,
تا برآرم از ملائک بال و پر	So that I may lift up (my) head and wings (and soar) among the angels,
وز ملک هم بایدم جستن ز جو	And I must (also) jump from the river of (the state of) the angel,
کل شیء هالک الا وجهه	Everything perishes except His Face,
بار دیگر از ملک پران شوم	Once again I will become sacrificed from (the state of) the angel,
آنچه اندر وهم ناید آن شوم	I will become that which cannot come into the imagination,
پس عدم گُردم عدم چون ارغنون	Then I will become non-existent; non-existence says to me (in tones) like an organ,
گویدم که انا الیه راجعون	Truly, to Him is our return.

The *Masnavi* weaves fables, scenes from everyday life, Qur'anic revelations and exegesis, and metaphysics into a vast and intricate tapestry. In the East, it is said of him that he was "not a prophet but surely, he has brought a scripture.

Rumi believed passionately in the use of music, poetry and dance as a path for reaching God. For Rumi, music helped devotees to

When we are dead, seek not our tomb in the earth, but find it in the hearts of men.

Georgian Queen Gorgy Khatun was a patron and a close friend of Rumi. She was the one who sponsored the construction of his tomb in Konya. The 13th century Mevlâna Mausoleum, with its mosque, dance hall, dervish living quarters, school and tombs of some leaders of the Mevlevi Order, continues to this day to draw pilgrims from all parts of the Muslim and non-Muslim world.

Jalal al-Din who is also known as Rumi, was a philosopher and mystic of Islam. His doctrine advocates unlimited tolerance,

positive reasoning, goodness, charity and awareness through love. To him and to his disciples all religions are more or less truth. Looking with the same eye on Muslim, Jew and Christian alike, his peaceful and tolerant teaching has appealed to people of all sects and creeds.

The general theme of Rumi's thought, like that of other mystic and Sufi poets of Persian literature, is that of *Tow hid*—union with the Beloved, from whom he sees himself as being cut off and aloof. His longing and desire to attain it is evident in the following poem from his book the *Masnavi*:

focus their whole being on the divine and to do this so intensely that the soul was both destroyed and resurrected. It was from these ideas that the practice of whirling Dervishes developed into a ritual form. His teachings became the base for the order of the Mevlevi, which his son Sultan Walad organized. Rumi encouraged Sama, listening to music and turning or doing the sacred dance.

In the Mevlevi tradition, *samā'* represents a mystical journey of spiritual ascent through mind and love to the Perfect One. In this journey, the seeker symbolically turns towards the truth, grows through love, abandons the ego, finds the truth and arrives at the Perfect. The seeker then returns from this spiritual journey, with greater maturity, to love and to be of service to the whole of creation

without discrimination with regard to beliefs, races, classes and nations

In other verses in the *Masnawi*, Rumi describes in detail the universal message of love:

The lover's cause is separate from all other causes

Love is the astrolabe of God's mysteries.

Rumi's favorite musical instrument was the ney (reed flute).

### Major works:

Rumi's poetry is often divided into various categories: the quatrains (*robayāt*) and odes (*ghazal*) of the *Divan*, the six books of the *Masnawi*. The prose works are divided into The Discourses, The Letters, and the *Seven Sermons*.

### Poetic works:



Masnawīye Ma'nawī

\*Rumi's major work is the *Masnawīye Ma'nawī* (*Spiritual Couplets*; *مثنوی معنوی*), a six-volume poem regarded by some Sufis as the Persian-language Qur'an. It is considered by many to be one of the greatest works of mystical poetry.

It contains approximately 27,000 lines of Persian poetry.

\*Rumi's other major work is the *Dīwān-e Kabīr* (*Great Work*) or *Dīwān-e Shams-e Tabrīzī* (*The Works of Shams of Tabriz*; *دیوان شمس تبریزی*), named in honour of Rumi's master Shams.

Besides approximately 35000 Persian couplets and 2000 Persian quatrains, the *Divan* contains 90 Ghazals and 19 quatrains in Arabic, a couple of dozen or so couplets

### Prose works:

*Fihi Ma Fihi* (*In It What's in It*, Persian: *فیه ما فیه*) provides a record of seventy-one talks and lectures given by Rumi on various occasions to his disciples. It was compiled from the notes of his various disciples, so Rumi did not author the work directly. An English translation from the Persian was first published by A.J. Arberry as *Discourses of Rumi* (New York: Samuel Weiser, 1972), and a translation of the second book by Wheeler Thackston, *Sign of the Unseen* (Putney, VT: Threshold Books, 1994). The style of the *Fihi ma fihi* is colloquial and meant for middle-class men and women, and lack the sophisticated wordplay.

*Majales-e Sab'a* (*Seven Sessions*, Persian: *مجالس سبعه*) contains seven Persian sermons (as the name implies) or lectures given in seven different assemblies.

The sermons themselves give a commentary on the deeper meaning of Qur'an and Hadith.

The sermons also include quotations from poems of Sana'i, 'Attar, and other poets, including Rumi himself.

As Aflakī relates, after Shams-e Tabrīzī, Rumi gave sermons at the request of notables, especially Salāh al-Dīn Zarkūb.

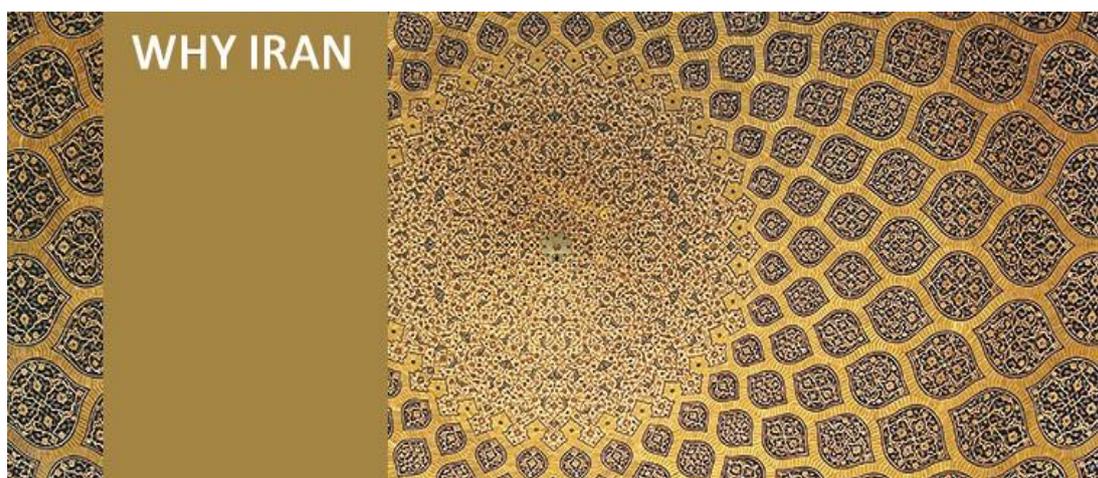
The style of Persian is rather simple, but quotation of Arabic and knowledge of history and the Hadith show Rumi's knowledge in the Islamic sciences. His style is typical of the genre of lectures given by Sufis and spiritual teachers.

*Makatib* (*The Letters*, Persian: *مکاتیب*) is the book containing Rumi's letters in Persian to his disciples, family members, and men of state and of influence. The letters testify that Rumi kept very busy helping family members and administering a community of disciples that had grown up around them. Unlike the Persian style of the previous two mentioned works (which are lectures and sermons), the letters are consciously sophisticated and epistolary in style, which is in conformity with the expectations of correspondence directed to nobles, statesmen and kings.



An Ottoman era manuscript depicting Rumi and Shams-e Tabrizi

# “Health Tourism in IRAN”



Iran seems to be an ideal destination for health tourism. Every year, hoping to get better services and healthcare, patients travel to the USA, UK, and Europe, while spending millions of dollars. Iran is proud to offer healthcare services of other countries with lower costs, shorter waiting times, hospitals and clinics equipped with the latest technology and best physicians. Patients can undergo treatment, recover and enjoy a holiday in Iran for much less than what it would cost them for treatment in other countries. Medical Tourism in Iran has been patronized by tourists looking for critical medical treatment as well as by people in need of cosmetic and preventative care. Iran is an opportunity for patients to travel for medical care and take advantage of reduced cost and wait time. Iran offers top-notch medical care in cardiology, ophthalmology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, rheumatology, nephrology, oncology, neurology, dermatology, gynecology/obstetrics,



orthopedics, organ transplantation and otolaryngology (ear, nose & throat). Moreover, Iran is renowned for their hot springs and traditional medicines. Sirch (Kerman), Sar'eyn (Ardabil) and Geno (Bandar Abbas) are notable hot springs in Iran. Spas as a fantastic phenomenon has always been interesting for tourists. Every year thousands of tourists come to Iran to take bath in mineral water pools for different disease like skin disease, nervous calmativ and etc. An increasing number of patients come from Azerbaijan, Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan and even India. Some come as the prices are lower than at home, some come for specialist care, and many come

simply because they feel more culturally comfortable in Iran than in Europe or Asia. Iran offers services in ophthalmology, cardiology, kidney transplants, dentistry, urology and general surgery. Currently 30,000 foreign patients who are most from the neighbour countries come to Iran to receive medical treatments.

There are countless reasons that make Iran the ideal destination for your healthcare needs. Here are some reasons:

The medical service in Iran is cheap while the healthcare establishments are well equipped and professional. In other words The reasonable cost of medical treatment in Iran compared to Europe and the high quality of medical facilities are important factors for attracting foreign patients to Iran. There are always those medical tourists who travel from developed and medically advanced countries seeking better affordable medical services. So Affordability is an important key factor bringing patients to Iran. The another reason is the exchange rate fluctuations.

Iranian Rials' value has dropped rapidly within the past four years and lost two – third of its value. As a result, under the new conditions, Iranian medical services are offered in one – third of their previous prices to medical tourists. This situation resulted in a flow of medical tourists into Iran mainly from its neighboring countries, especially from Azerbaijan, Iraq and the Persian Gulf countries.

Beside the beautiful landscape, historical sites and the religious shrines that attract millions of tourists to Iran each year, Iran is an example of a country that has made considerable advances through education and training, despite international sanctions in almost all aspects of research during the past 30 years. So you can even turn your trip into a holiday beside your treatment.

In addition, Iran has highly experienced and professional doctors. So the other reason is Iran's well educated and skilled workforce in medical treatment and healthcare compared to other main destinations of medical tourism in the Middle East. Its scientific development in some medical specialties has enhanced its position in the field. For instance, Iran is among the worlds' top five countries in biotech.

Thanks to its geographical position, the conditions in neighboring countries, economically reasonable prices and advanced medical facilities, Iran is gradually becoming a destination for Islamic and regional medical tourists.



Hospitals in Iranian cities offer medical and health care services for foreign medical tourists. Medical services in Iran are comparable with those offered in advanced countries.

Iran is one of the top five countries in the world in biotech and nine out of 15 high usage biotech molecules are produced in Iran.

Iran with its potential talent is among the 12 countries with biological medicines technology and can serve as a health tourism center.

Nowadays, with over 400 medical research facilities and 76 medical magazine indexes available in the country, Iran is the 19th country in medical research and is set to become the 10th within 10 years.

The other factor is Iran's reformed rules and regulations in granting visas to medical tourists. In an attempt to boost its tourism sector, Iran has facilitated the regulations of granting visas to

medical tourists and their companions. These regulations have long been an obstacle to Iranian tourism industry. In brief we can say that, Iran offers a wide range of state-of-the-art treatment, through an extensive network of highly-equipped hospitals, around 850 hospitals, and rehabilitation centers at reasonable costs. An analysis of the costs of the various procedures shows that treatment costs in Iran are much lower as compared to the developed countries. Iran is also very cost competitive as compared to its regional competitors, including Jordan, Turkey, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain as well as southeast Asian countries such as Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, and India. Iranian are known to be very good doctors; medical travelers who seek low cost rates and a chance to see this interesting country have the opportunity to be hospitalized in one of the well established hospitals or other medical clinics and undergo cosmetic surgery; a face lift or a nose job in what is called (in medical terms) rhinoplasty.

Iranian people are known for their hospitality, medical travelers feel comfortable when touring the country. Hospitals in Tehran and Shiraz have modern equipment. There are direct flight to Iran from all major cities in Europe and the Middle East so no long journey is needed for cosmetic surgery. Delivery of medical service is quick and efficient.



*Tayyebnia:*

## *“Majority of Iran Transactions in Euro”*



After Iran ditched the US dollar in its financial reporting and the Central Bank of Iran is pursuing the policy to sideline the greenback in its forex transactions in response to US restrictions, Iran's Economy Minister Ali Tayyebnia said the lion's share of the country's dealings are now conducted with euro.

"At present, a majority of our transactions take place with euro, which has caused a significant decrease in transaction costs compared to the past," Tayyebnia was also quoted as saying by IBENA.

The minister made the statements on the sidelines of the latest joint meeting between the government and private sector representatives, an occasion which served as his valedictory as he is not included in President Hassan Rouhani's Cabinet list announced on Tuesday.

The Tehran University professor is to be replaced by the head of Iran Customs Administration, Masoud Karbasian, if the latter wins the parliament's approval in the coming days.

Tayyebnia added that banking ties with European lenders are underway using eurozone's single currency while dollar trans-

actions are still problematic as a result of decades-old US sanctions.

The policy of employing euro first gained momentum when CBI Governor Valiollah Seif announced in late January that Iran would stop using the US dollar in its financial and foreign exchange reports as of March 2017.

In early April, CBI emphasized that it has been and will continue to dilute the greenback's role in its foreign exchange basket.

Seif said it would be illogical for the US dollar to be used as the base currency for economic reports since it makes up a meager portion of the country's foreign trade.

"We have to set a currency as the basis of financial reporting, which has better stability and wider use in our foreign trade," he said.

At Monday's meeting, which was held at the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture and attended by ICCIMA chief, Gholamhossein Shafei, Chairman of Majlis Economic Commission Mohammad Reza Pour-Ebrahimi and CBI Vice Governor Akbar Komijani among others, Tayyebnia reviewed the four-year

performance of his ministry and weighed in on a variety of subjects.

### Challenges & Prospects

Tayyebnia noted that the administration of President Hassan Rouhani has managed to instill a relative stability in the economy and identified botched privatization and high dependence on oil income as the country's major problems that must be tackled.

He stressed that oil is a "generational asset" that when sold, must not be entirely splurged on the current generation.

"Oil revenues should be saved with the National Development Fund of Iran and invested in places that strengthen the role of the private sector in the economy," he said.

The outgoing minister conceded that the Iranian banking system is facing many hurdles, including a stubborn credit crunch, but added that such problems will not be resolved by grandstanding, making baseless criticism and denouncing bank CEOs.

"Increasing the capital of banks is much more important than launching a new project," he said.

Tayyebnia referred to the development of debt market, which

has recently gathered pace as the administration has issued bonds to sell its debt.

"The debt market in its current form has been unprecedented in the country. During the fiscal 2015-16, it was worth 100 trillion rials (\$2.62 billion) and in 2016-17, it was valued at 280 trillion rials (\$7.34 billion)," he said.

"The first priority of the government in entering the bonds market was to finance the private sector."

Tayyebnia said organizing government debts, preventing the pileup of further debts and making up for budget deficits were other reasons behind the debt market move.

The head of the Majlis Economic Commission echoed Tayyebnia on oil, referring to a 10% increase in the share of oil revenues in the annual budget as a negative point.

"However, the increased 1.16 quadrillion rials (\$30.4 billion) share of taxes in the 3.46 quadrillion rials (\$90.7 billion) budget, which equals about 35%, was a significant achievement realized during the first term of the [Rouhani] administration," Pour-Ebrahimi added.

The ICCIMA chief, on the other hand, spoke of the benefits of these joint meetings that reached 69 in the last four years, saying it provided a constructive channel and created a positive dialogue between the government and the private sector under the chairmanship of Tayyebnia.

However, Shafei also noted that in spite of all efforts by the Economy Ministry, the private sector remains vastly dissatisfied with the progression of divesting government enterprises to the private sector.

Tayyebnia was commended for his distinguished four-year public service at the meeting, which was attended by many private sector members, judiciary officials and lawmakers.

A top parliamentary economic commission will soon hold a joint session with CEOs of banks to brainstorm and decide new bank interest rates, announced the head of the commission.

"The government and the parliament are striving to reduce bank interest rates since doing so

is an unavoidable necessity for the Iranian economy. That's why a joint session will be held between Majlis Economic Commission and the chief executives of state-owned banks next week," Mohammad Reza Pour-Ebrahimi told ICANA, the official news outlet of the parliament.

According to Pour-Ebrahimi, the meeting's objective will be to "come to an agreement on ways of decreasing the interest rates for deposits".

Noting that businesses cannot repay their loans with interest rates that at times go up to 30%, the official stressed that the banks should not pay interests of up to 25% on deposits, as some have done.

"That's why deposit rates must come down and have been prioritized, while the next step will be to decrease the interest rates on loans," he added.

The commission chief pointed out that by bringing the deposit rates down, "we could shrink the interests on loans to 16% and then move to gradually bring them down further".

At present, as per an agreement between the CEOs of banks and a subsequent directive by the Money and Credit Council last year, deposit rates have been officially set at 15% while interest rates stand at 18%. However, various factors such as the credit crunch in the banking system have forced lenders to operate at much higher rates.

Commenting on the adverse effects of high rates, Pour-Ebrahimi said it is "meaningless" to have deposit rates of 20% and interest rates of 25-30% when the inflation rate circles around 10%.

"This puts pressures on manufacturers from two sides as they are prohibited from increasing their prices because of price-suppressing government policies to combat inflation while they have to pay high interests on their loans at the same time," he added.

As the MP said, it would be to the detriment of the nation, should the inflation rates rise, so decreasing the interest rates is the only way to go.

However, the government has so far been unable to meaningfully

bring them down and has faced "vacuums" which Pour-Ebrahimi links to the operations of illegal credit institutions in the informal money market.

In the past few months, Pour-Ebrahimi has spearheaded an unprecedented entry of the parliament to the longstanding case of illegal credit institutions that spawned during the tenure of the former administration.

While the Central Bank of Iran has promised that no trace of shadow banks will be left in the market by the end of the current fiscal year in March 2018, the commission has said it might invoke an article of the law to make the central bank accountable to the judiciary.

Uncertified credit institutions used to command at least 25% of the country's liquidity, as thousands of people had been attracted to their high interest rates and had made deposits with them.

However, CBI Governor Valiollah Seif announced in late June that their share of the liquidity has dropped below 10%.

**Coordination for Rate Cuts**

A member of the board of directors of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture noted that MCC and the central bank alone do not have the power to decrease the rates themselves and the dilemma requires teamwork.

"MCC is not capable of exerting oversight on the implementation of its directives, so to reduce the interest rates, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, the Ministry of Industries, Mining and Trade and the parliament must cooperate with CBI," Hamed Vahedi also told IBENA.

"The banking system was significantly limited as a result of sanctions for years, creating a severe indebtedness of state-owned and private sectors to banks."

The official noted that lenders are still battling the repercussions of what was done by the former government, namely a hefty credit crunch and the piling up of non-performing loans.

"If the central bank is given greater independence, many of the problems in the banking

system will be alleviated," Vahedi concluded.

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## *Iran's tourism industry flourishing*



TEHRAN, Sep. 22 (MNA) –d between Iran and the Statistics shows that Iran is currently ranked 15th in terms of tourist attractions in the world. A series of hurdles such as sanctions and propaganda by the west, especially in the media, has prevented Iran's tourism industry from flourishing. Iran is a country with high potential in tourism industry and since historic nuclear deal reached 5+1 group of countries in 2015, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) geared up to make its mark in the industry.

Iran is located in an area where threats are rampant around the country. Opposite to what many believe, Iran is actually very stable in an area that is representative of instability.

At present the Iranian government is planning to attract more tourists which the initiative would create a huge number of jobs and produce

around billions of dollars for the country.

### **World's cheapest tourist destination:**

At the time being another key point that adds to Iran's advantage in this industry must be assessed- Iran is the world's cheapest tourist destination. This fact has been reported by the World Economic Forum (WEF) who has assessed nearly 141 countries, PressTV wrote. Statistics show that Iran is currently ranked 15th in terms of tourist attractions in the world. A series of hurdles such as sanctions and propaganda by the west, especially in the media, has prevented Iran's tourism industry from flourishing.

From this 1.5 billion dollar industry, Iran has only been able to obtain 7.5 million dollars and therefore has ranked 35th in this respect. In addition to economic issues, one of the essential factors that have led to the

number of tourists is safety. The idea that foreign tourists visit an area where safety is guaranteed is impossible.

### **Healthy revenues:**

Attractions of Iran's tourism industry are drawing a stronger attention now that the country has opened its doors in light of the removal of economic sanctions last month.

Iran is making a fresh pitch for tourists with the recent lifting of economic sanctions providing an opportunity to cash in.

Tourists, and the healthy revenues they could generate, are among the huge economic changes stemming from the nuclear deal, AFP wrote.

Ski resorts, UNESCO-listed world heritage sites and deserts combine with cities steeped in Middle Eastern grandeur and tradition, adds the report.

A tourism push was launched after President Hassan Rouhani came to power in 2013. Iranian officials have already said that

about five million foreign travelers visited Iran in 2014, and that the country aims to attract 20 million tourists, spending \$30 billion, by 2025.

Entry procedures have been simplified, meaning visitors from only 11 countries are not eligible for a visa on arrival.

The United States, Britain, Canada and France top the exclusion list but some people will not be put off by the restrictions.

According to the New York Times, there has been a surge in bookings for Iran trips by American tourists.

Tour operators say the demand has been so acute that they are racing to add new departures and selling them in record time, it reported.

#### **World's oldest cultural monuments:**

Iran hosts some of the world's oldest cultural monuments, including 19 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and its varied terrain ranges from desert locales to ski resorts.

A tourism adventure to Iran could all start right in capital Tehran and with skiing if you are visiting the country during winters. The city's Tochal ski resort is one of several close to the capital. Most tourists will then make trips to Isfahan, Shiraz and Yazd, cities which are inter-nationally known to be much more beautiful and relaxed than Tehran, AFP's report added.

Among the popular sites in Isfahan is Imam Square, second in size only to Tiananmen Square in Beijing, but with water fountains and impressive architecture the Iranian site is much more attractive.

For President Rouhani, tourism offers a way to offset falling oil prices that have slashed government income.

It comes as tourists shun many parts of the Middle East because of war and a recent wave of terrorist attacks in countries including Egypt and Tunisia, the report added.

#### **Most affordable prices:**

Iran's tourism industry has been identified for a third straight year to have the most affordable prices in the world for foreign visitors.

A biannual report published by the World Economic Forum (WEF) gave Iran a score of 66.6 in terms of price competitiveness and put it ahead of global tourism players such as Egypt, Malaysia, Russia, Turkey, Greece, Spain, the US, France and Italy.

The last 10 countries at the bottom of the list in the same category included Peru, Australia, Denmark, Senegal, Norway, Iceland, Barbados, Britain and Switzerland.

The price competitiveness of countries in the WEF's "Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index 2017" were measured by comparing costs relating to travel to and from a destination (travel costs including ticket prices, taxes, fuel rates, etc) and those relating to prices within the tourism destination (ground costs including hotel prices, service rates, food prices, etc).

Iran was also given a ranking of 38 in terms of cultural resources – the number of World Heritage natural sites, total known species, total protected areas and attractiveness of natural assets.

The WEF report showed that Iran's overall travel and tourism competitiveness ranking had improved by four points over the past two years, PressTV wrote.

It identified Iran as the 93rd country with the appropriate set of factors and policies that enable the sustainable development of the travel and tourism sector.

Those factors, it said, include business environment, safety and security, health and hygiene, human resources and the labor market as well as its readiness in terms of information and communication technology (ICT).

#### **Iran's tourism industry booming**

An American media says while some Western firms fear President Trump could yet torpedo the nuclear deal, Iran's tourism industry is booming.

More than 6 million people visited Iran in the year ending March 2017, up 50% on the previous year and three times the number in 2009, according to official data.

The surge in visitors follows the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers that resulted in many sanctions being lifted early the following year, CNN reported.

European airlines such as British Airways and Lufthansa (DLAKY) resumed direct flights to the country, and Iranian authorities relaxed visa requirements. And as more people arrive, demand for accommodation is skyrocketing. That's creating opportunities for local entrepreneurs and foreign businesses.

Unlike some Western firms, who are reluctant to invest in Iran because they fear President Trump could yet torpedo the nuclear deal, international hotel chains are moving fast to meet the need for more rooms.

France's Accor (ACCYY) was the first chain to open in Iran in 2015. It now operates two hotels there. Spain's Melia (SMIZF) will open its first hotel next year. Rotana of the United Arab Emirates also has one hotel in the pipeline for early next year and plans three more by 2020.

EasyHotel, a UK-based budget chain, is reported to have signed a deal in July to deliver 500 rooms. It did not respond to a request for comment.

Many of the new visitors are young backpackers from Europe and Asia, drawn by Iran's history and culture. The most popular destinations include the ancient cities of Esfahan and Shiraz. It's also home to Persepolis, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

By: Maryam Azish

## Short Economic News

### Mogherini's lip service to deal, sans practice, of no value

(MNA) – Mogherini's silence over US breaching the nuclear deal of July 2015 is not a trivial issue to be simply condoned as just paying lip service to the agreement is not enough.

In the past days, some news has been spread about European troika aligning with the US in the way of dealing with the nuclear agreement of July 2015 between Iran and Sextet. The German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel explicitly stated that Germany is ready to cooperate with US, UK, and France to more exert pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran to force Iranians to comply with their nuclear commitments.

Even beyond that, some media have relayed that Trump administration officials have been extensively negotiating with the heads of the three European countries for returning Iran to the table of talks. Bloomberg news outlet has reported that Trump is determined to take advantage of the UN General Assembly to lobby and negotiate with European officials to finalize the idea of renegotiating the nuclear deal.

According to what has been announced by Western news outlets, the UN General Assambly will be held in New York next week and Trump will meet with leaders of France and



Britain to supposedly ask them to talk Germany into calling for renegotiation of the nuclear deal. Previously, France and Britain have already stated their readiness for re-doing the nuclear talks.

Two American diplomats have already said that their French and British counterparts have voiced readiness to ratchet up pressure on Iran for the flaws in the nuclear agreement.

Meanwhile, Mogherini has just very recently re-expressed support for the JCPOA. Addressing the European Parliament plenary session, she said on Tuesday that the JCPOA “has shown to the world that with patience, perseverance, diplomacy and political will, nuclear non-proliferation is indeed achievable.”

But now the question is till when will these generalized speeches of Mogherini and other European leaders in support of the JCPOA go on? Is not it really the time for EU's explicit support in action rather than speech? Federica Mogherini

European foreign policy chief who simultaneously chairs the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) has done nothing in response to the violations of the nuclear agreement by the US (both under Obama and Trump administrations).

The same assertion can be made about the officials of the three European countries involved in the nuclear agreement. Currently,

Mogherini has kept silent over the released news about the conspiracy of the officials of US and European troika who are seeking renegotiation of the nuclear deal. Undoubtedly, any effort for renegotiating the nuclear deal means infringing the agreement. At such a situation Iran's right of protesting or even leaving the nuclear agreement is reserved.

Mogherini should accept that she and her companions have failed in the test for protecting the nuclear agreement. Her silence over US de facto violation of the JCPOA (especially in the case of passing new anti-Iran sanctions by US congress which is against the article 29 of the agreement) cannot be simply ignored. For sure, if she keeps failing practicing her duties in preserving the nuclear agreement, her lip service to the deal will be of little value.

## Macron's Popularity Plunging Over Nepotism

Less than three months after his election, Emmanuel Macron has already seen his popularity dip after launching a divisive labor reform and engaging in a damaging dispute with the military.

The question over the future role of his wife might add to that downward trend, DW reported.

Macron, who took office in May, is facing accusations of hypocrisy after he was previously outspoken in his determination to rid the French political system of nepotism.

A petition with close to 200,000 signatures has been launched in protest at the decision to give Brigitte Macron an official role



with access to public funds, her own staff and office.

Opinion polls conducted last week showed the percentage of French citizens who said they were satisfied with Macron's

policies to be plunging. Lately, the young president's image has taken a hit due to a public dispute with the French military chief over budget cuts and his standoffish attitude towards the press.

France's Ifop polling agency said: "Apart from Jacques Chirac in July 1995, a newly elected president has never seen his popularity rate falling as quickly during the summer after the election." While struggling at home, Macron has succeeded in raising France's diplomatic profile, hosting meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump, and Libyan peace talks in Paris.

## Iran's Yazd City Inscribed on World Heritage List

The historical city of Yazd in central Iran has become the country's 22<sup>nd</sup> world heritage site after the World Heritage Committee voted in favor of its inscription on Sunday during the committee's 41<sup>st</sup> session in Krakow, Poland.

Almost 200 hectares of the city's 2,270-hectare historical texture now boast world heritage status. Yazd is now the only UNESCO-listed Iranian city where people still live. It is also believed to be the world's largest inhabited adobe city.

Registering the site on the coveted list was a tougher task than Iranian officials had hoped. The ancient city's dossier was supposed to be considered for inscription last year but was deemed incomplete by UNESCO's assessors who gave Iran a long list of shortcomings that had to be redressed to improve the city's chances of inscription on the coveted list.



Cultural heritage authorities have envisioned a buffer zone of around 665.93 hectares for the designated area.

Yazd is home to UNESCO-listed ancient Persian qanats as well as Dolat Abad Garden, which is one of nine Iranian gardens inscribed collectively on the World Heritage List as "the Persian Gardens". The city is known for its adobe

architecture, Zoroastrian fire temples and tall structures known as badgirs, or wind-catchers, which in ancient times functioned as natural ventilation in large buildings.

With 22 world heritage sites, Iran is ranked first in the Middle East and eleventh worldwide.

The 11-day session of the World Heritage Committee will end on July 12.

## Shrimps Exported to 10 Countries

More than 15,000 tons of shrimps' worth over 2.21 trillion rials (close to \$70 million) were exported to 10 countries in Europe and Asia during the last Iranian year that ended March 20, 2017, data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration show. The main export destinations were Spain, France, Armenia, the UAE, Bahrain and Lebanon. Some 21,400 tons of shrimp were produced in the country



during the period, registering more than a 20% increase compared with the year before, Mizan Online reported. Shrimp

culture in Iran is mainly practiced in the provinces of Khuzestan, Hormozgan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Bushehr in the south and Golestan in the north. Secretary-General of Seafood Exporters Union Ali Akbar Khodaei expects shrimp production to increase by about 43% to reach more than 30,000 tons in the current Iranian year (started March 21). He also expects exports to reach 20,000 tons this year.

## Iran, UK sign biggest post-JCPOA contract

(MNA) – At a ceremony in London, the biggest post-JCPOA contract of Iran and Britain was signed to boost Iran's solar energy capacity by 600 MW. One day after anti-Iranian remarks of President Trump of US, a ceremony was held in London where the Iranian Ambassador to the UK, Hamid Baiedinejad, and Alex Chisholm, the British Permanent Secretary for BEIS (the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy)



witnessed a landmark contract signed. The event took place on Wednesday and the British investor says that it is the biggest cooperation between a British company and Iranians

after the removal of anti-Iranian sanctions. Iran's solar energy capacity will be increased by 600 Mega Watts with putting the plant online. Iran, as the second top economy of the region, is committed to develop 5 GW of new renewable energy capacity by 2020, so at the end of the project, Iran will own the biggest solar plant in the world, says the specialist renewable energy investor Quercus.

## Iran's agro output soars by 21mn tons



(MNA) – Deputy Iranian agriculture minister has announced that volume of agricultural production has climbed from 97 to 118 million tons.

Eskandar Zand, Head of the Agricultural Research Organization, made the remarks at an IRIB program explaining that Ministry of Agriculture was seeking to promote knowledge-based activities.

“Iran has obtained notable achievements in the field of agricultural production as indicated by the rise in output

levels from 97 to 118 million tons as well as realization of 80% of self-sufficiency in the production sector,” he underlined. The official stressed that, in bid to increase productivity in various arenas, efforts were being made to develop research and education activities.

Zand went on to emphasize that the production chain in agriculture could be further developed as well as that for the post-production phase,

investments needed to be made for creation and strengthening necessary infrastructure in the field. Head of the Agricultural Research Organization later enumerated required infrastructures including strengthening of transportation system, cold stores, markets as well as agriculture production cooperatives; “the Iranian Ministry is also after strengthening post-production phases.”

“Post-production issues have always been one of the most complex arenas which are controlled by farmers and unions all over the world since any post-production profit forms part of farmers’ income,” he underlined.

Zand emphasized that exports of several Iranian agricultural products could further increase though success was subject to amount of demand.

## EU Committee Rejects Anti-Iran HRC Dumping Allegations

The Trade Defense Instruments Committee of the EU has rejected a proposal to impose definitive anti-dumping measures on the import of hot-rolled coil from Iran and three other countries.

The decision, which was taken last week, does not put an end to the issue, however, and the European Commission may yet set definitive anti-dumping measures by October 6 this year, Metal Bulletin reported.

Iranian steel exports, especially HRC shipments, grew nearly eightfold between 2013 and 2016 to just over 1 million tons annually, leading to EC’s dumping allegations against Iran.

The EC previously released a preliminary document that imposed a minimum import price on HRC from Iran, Russia, Ukraine and Brazil. Suppliers from these four countries will be required to pay anti-dumping duties in the range of 5.30-33% if they sell their products for less than €468.49 (\$561.06) per ton at EU border ports.

“The [European] commission has informed all interested parties about the findings so far and presented its proposal to the member states in the Trade Defense Committee. The procedure is continuing, however, and no decision has yet been made,” an EC source said. “The [Trade Defense] committee did reject the commission’s proposal with a

qualified majority vote against, but this doesn’t mean the measure is dead. It merely means that the commission can either make a new proposal or take its existing proposal to appeal,” a spokesman for European steel association, Eurofer, said.

“We have no idea how this is going to play out; only that [the EC] must act quickly, as the deadline for measures is October 6,” he added.

“The Trade Defense Instruments Committee rejected the proposal. It is hard to make any forecasts at this point, but it is not a definitive rejection; it is just one stage of the procedure that the case did not pass,” a trade lawyer involved in the case said.

“The vote will continue in the near future, and it could result in a change of the proposal about the form of trade defense measures.”

Tommaso Sandrini, president of Italian steel distributors’ association Assofermet, said the proposal as written [by the EC] was rejected by a majority of member states. This means that we might get a new proposal from the EC but all the procedures should be completed by October 6.”

“I do not think that there is enough time to make a new proposal, inform all the parties involved, collect feedback and analyze it. They could cancel the MIP, or set a different level

of the MIP for different products, or make it adjustable to [accommodate] fluctuations in production costs,” he said.

“There is also an extreme situation where both the EC and the committee maintain their positions. In such a circumstance, if the same proposal is made again, the investigation will end without any outcome—meaning no duties and no MIP,” he said.

“But there is also a chance that the committee will accept it with a few minor amendments. ‘No decision’ is not a good scenario for anyone.”

Sandrini criticized the increasing level of uncertainty in the market.

“We have one more month of ‘wait and see’ before any business is resumed with the four countries. In the medium term, any scenario is possible, but I expect the EC to come up with some kind of compromise,” he added.

When the trade case started in July last year, a consortium of steel companies from Italy and elsewhere across Europe was established by Assofermet to maintain competition in the EU steel market. EU countries, including those with steelmakers and those interested in cheap steel, opposed the overall plan, EU sources told Reuters.

The former believe the measures were too weak, the latter considered them too strong.

## IBCCIM's New Members

### Member Companies:

**Hadid Sanat Pars Niroom Pasargad Co.:** Diesel Generator , M.D.: Ahmad Moosavi, Address: Postal Code: 196983311, Floor No. 2, Tenth Floor, Negar Tower, Upper than Vanak Sqr., Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 88641591-4, Fax: + 98 (21) 88641590, Email: a.kiani@hspower.com .

**Saytal Sakht Co.:** Window and door contractors, M.D.: Mohammad Aslanabadi, Address: Postal Code: 1588733718, Floor No. 7, No. 1, Razmandegan Alley, Motahari St., Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 85504, Fax: + 98 (21) 85504, Email: a.aslan@saytal.com .

**Asan Kar Padra Co.:** Trading, M.D.: Masoud Mansouri, Address: Postal Code: 1481874197, Flat No. 6, First Floor, Building 260, Kashani- Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 49795000, Fax: + 98 (21) 44014598, Email: m.mansouri@skipad.ir.

**Shimi Dadrou Parsian Co.:** Pharmacy and Foodstuff, M.D.: Mohammad Memari, Address: Flat No. 1, First floor, Darya Building, No. 3, Sasanpour St., Ketabi Square, Shariati St., Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 27616000, Fax: + 98 (21) 27616000, Email: ppc1389@gmail.com.

**Intelligent Persian Corporation Co.:** Investigation, M.D.: Farshid Shokrehodaee, Address: Ppostal Code: 1433714397, third floor, No. 4, Ebn-e-Sina St., Yousef Abad St., Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 43089000, Fax: + 98 (21) 43089999, Email: info@ipcgroup.com.

**Nik Sima Iranian Kish Co.:** Cosmetics, M.D.: Mohammadali Movassaghi, Address: No. 43, Sadaf Building, Kish, Tel: + 98 (21) 22110322, Fax: + 98 (21) 22110322, Email: mohammad.movassaghi@gmail.com.

**Omid Salamat Caspian Co.:** Medical Equipment, M.D.: Faraz Farahbakhsh, Address: Postal Code: 1986664354, No. 28, in the corner of Shahrivar St., Mahmoudiyeh St., Park Vey St., Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 26457407, Fax: + 98 (21) 26457486, Email: medikala@gmail.com.

**Arzeshafarinan Pasargad Group:** Investment, M.D.: Mojtaba Kobari, Address: Postal Code: 1911618711, Second Floor, No. 139, Mirdamad St., Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 26401840-8, Fax: + 98 (21) 26401849.

**Sanayei Trading Co.:** Textile & Clothing, M.D.: Afshin Sanayei, Address: Postal Code: 15136, No. 17, Khaled Eslamboli St., Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 88701343, Fax: + 98 (21) 88719269, Email: info@sanayei.ir .

**Hoshiyar Behmand & Co. - Audit Firm:** Auditing, M.D.: Abbas Hoshi, Address: Postal Code: 1586936147, Flat No. 2, Forth Floor, No. 114, Ghaem Magham Farahani St., Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 88843704-5, Fax: + 98 (21) 88843704-5, Email: hb.iran@hoshiyar.com .

**Bourse Behgozin Brokerage Co.:** Investment, M.D.: Mohammad Roshan Pour, Address: Postal Code: 1514757111, first and second floor, No. 7, West 12th St., Ahmad Ghasir St., Arzhantin Square, Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 42856142, Fax: + 98 (21) 42856123, Email: info@behgozinbroker.com .

**Pak Teliseh Co.:** Foodstuff, M.D.: Mehdi Alimardani, Address: Flat No. fifth floor, No. 2, east Khanbabaie St., Ashrafi Isfahani, Tehran, Tel: + 98 (21) 44892137-402, Fax: + 98 (21) 44892118, Email: m.alimardani@202.ir .

### Individual Members:

**Nader Ghaleh Golabi Zadeh:** Trading, Address: Postal Code: Postal Code: 6319811474, No. 35, Second deadend, Zolfaghar yekom , Abadan, Tel: + 98 (61) 53229042, Fax: + 98 (61) 53229042, Email: nghalehgolabi@yahoo.com .

**Yousef Asakareh:** Trading, Address: Postal Code: Postal Code: 6194955469, between Khaghani and Simetri St., East Kaveh St., Tel: + 98 (61) 32219568, Fax: + 98 (61) 32921786.

### Key Economic Indicators

#### Population and Labor Force (1395)

Population	79.9 million
Urban	59.2 million
Rural <sup>1</sup>	20.7 million
Population Growth	1.2 percent
Population Density	48.5 per sq km
Active Population (1395, Q3)	25.5 million
Unemployment Rate (1395, Q3)	12.3 percent
Urban	13.3 percent
Rural	9.3 percent
Male	10.4 percent
Female	20.4 percent
15-29 years old	26.4 percent
15-24 years old	30.4 percent

Source: Statistical Center of Iran (SCI).

<sup>1</sup>Includes non-resident population.

#### External Sector (million US\$) (Nine months, 1395)

Current Account Balance	11,915
Trade Balance (goods account)	16,036
Exports (FOB)	60,292
Imports (FOB)	44,256
Total External Debt (end of period)	7,840
Exchange Rate (US\$/IRR)	
Interbank Market (average)	Rls. 31,066

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

Liquidity (M2)	16.5
Money (M1)	12.7
Quasi-money	17.1
Non-public Sector Deposits	17.5

#### Real Sector (1395, Q3)

GDP Growth (1390=100)	
Oil	15.7 percent
Non-oil	4.6 percent
Performance of 1395, Q3 (current prices; trillion Rls.)	
GDP (at basic price)	3,104
Gross Fixed Capital Formation	539
Private Consumption Expenditures	1,625
Public Consumption Expenditures	382

#### Government Fiscal Position (trillion Rls.) (1395, Q3)

Revenues	295.6
Expenses	449.2
Disposal of Non-financial Assets	177.9
Acquisition of Non-financial Assets	36.0
Net Lending/Borrowing	14.7

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

Twelve months ending Azar 1395 compared with same period previous year (inflation rate)	8.6 percent
Azar 1395 compared with previous month	1.4 percent
Azar 1395 compared with same month previous year	9.2 percent

#### Tehran Stock Exchange (1395, Q3)

Tehran Stock Exchange Price Index (TEPIX) (end of period)	80,123.0
Value of Shares and Rights Traded	Rls. 119.6 trillion
Volume of Shares and Rights Traded	55.5 billion

Source: CBI