

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran-US deal ...

These claims, in the most optimistic scenario, are the beliefs of these media. In fact, no agreement has been reached between Tehran and Washington other than the prisoner swap and the release of Iran's funds.

After the latest round of nuclear negotiations in September, the nuclear talks have stalled due to the US excessive demands. The Americans were trying to implement the issue of prisoner exchange in the framework of the nuclear negotiations, but Iran insisted that these are two separate issues.

Washington's policy was to exert financial pressure on Iran in order to force Tehran to give more concessions or withdraw from some of its legal privileges. In this regard, they began a hybrid war against Iran, especially during last year's unrest, when they hoped that internal problems along with external pressures would force Tehran to retreat from its stances.

However, by adopting the resistance strategy, Tehran has stood up against US pressure. Over the past years, Iran's regional and international status has improved, and the region's Arab countries, especially Saudi Arabia, have restored their relations with Tehran.

Therefore, when the Americans did not find any achievements in their hybrid war against Iran, they retreated from their positions and accepted that the issue of a prisoner exchange should be pursued separately.

The US acquiescence to the agreement ahead of the first anniversary of the riots, which was sparked by the death of a girl in police custody in Tehran, conveys the message that the Americans are disappointed with the effectiveness of the opposition movements active in foreign countries and the policy of creating chaos inside Iran.

Iran arrests terrorists involved in Friday attack



FARS – Iranian security forces captured two terrorists involved in the martyrdom and injury of several members of volunteer Basij forces in the Southeastern city of Qasr-e Qand on Friday. Provincial Police Chief Doostali Jalilian said on Saturday that the detainees were members of the so-called Ansar Al-Furqan terror outfit and were arrested hours later in the border province of Sistan and Baluchestan.

Iran's frozen funds released, to be transferred via banking channel



Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani (R) bumps fist with his South Korean counterpart, Choi Jong-kun, on the sidelines of the nuclear negotiations in Vienna, Austria, in January 2022.
● SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTRY

International Desk

Iran's nearly \$7 billion that was frozen in South Korea is reportedly released and to be soon transferred via a dedicated banking channel.

Mohammad Reza Farzin, the governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), tweeted on Saturday that all of Iran's assets blocked in South Korea were released and will be used in the form of banking payment to purchase non-sanctioned goods and commodities, according to Fars news agency. "I take this opportunity to

thank the currency diplomacy team of the country for their success in unfreezing Iran's assets. Undoubtedly, what has been obtained is beyond the estimations and, of course, this trend will continue," the CBI governor wrote.

Farzin reiterated that Iran's frozen assets had been deposited in South Korean banks in the form of won (the national currency of South Korea) during the late 1990s, and the total sum has accrued no interest since then. "Nearly \$1 billion of the asset faced a decrease

in parity value due to the decrease in the parity of won to the dollar," he added.

The CBI governor announced that the released assets will soon be deposited into the accounts of six Iranian banks in Qatar. A statement issued by the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Friday stressed that Iran has received the necessary guarantees from the US that it will honor its commitment under the deal on frozen funds. It also said that Iran will determine how to use these assets to meet various needs of the country.

New banking channel

Qatari Minister of State Mohammed al-Khulaifi stated on Friday that the ongoing negotiations between the US and Iran regarding a prisoner exchange and the release of frozen Iranian funds include the establishment of a banking channel. Al-Khulaifi added that the banking channel would address several agreed-upon matters among the parties, without specifying the nature of these issues, Asharq Al-Awsat reported.

Iranian officials have stipulated that the transfer of frozen Iranian assets in South Korea to foreign bank accounts is a prerequisite for the release of the five American detainees. In press statements, al-Khulaifi clarified that the agreement was preceded by intensive visits by Qatari officials to both Washington and Tehran. He emphasized that Doha has played a "central and fundamental role" in facilitating negotiations and dialogue between the two parties.

Furthermore, Al Khulaifi expressed optimism that this move would be followed by further steps towards reconciliation, affirming that his country will spare no effort in making additional endeavors to bridge the perspectives between the parties. The Qatari official stated his hope that the Wash-

ington-Tehran agreement would lead to broader understandings, including a return to the "nuclear deal".

Tehran never left talks

Highlighting Iran's uninterrupted efforts to nullify the illegal sanctions, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian stressed that Tehran has not backed out of negotiations and diplomacy. In a post on his account on X — the social media site formerly known as Twitter — Amir-Abdollahian said the incumbent administration has focused on dynamic diplomacy to fulfill Iran's national interests since it took office in August 2021, Tasnim news agency wrote.

The foreign minister underlined that Iran has never abandoned the course of negotiations and diplomacy, but it has simultaneously proceeded with efforts to neutralize the illegal sanctions. "The efforts will go on until the achievement of ultimate results and the complete fulfillment of Iran's rights," he stated.

The ministry emphasized that releasing the funds has consistently been on its agenda, noting that these funds were "illegally blocked" under the pretext of "overseas banks' concerns about the oppressive sanctions of the United States".

MKO terrorists planning relocation to Canada: Report

The leaders of the terrorist Mujahedeen Khalq Organization (MKO) are making arrangements to relocate their members from Albania to Canada. The MKO ringleaders have reportedly decided to relocate their base to Canada following the Albanian government's pressure and after the failure of their negotiations with the Paris government over relocation to France.

An informed security source told Tasnim news agency that the MKO terrorists have come up with the relocation plan after the government of Albania and its counter-terrorism court imposed restrictions on the terrorist group following the discovery of incriminating evidence from their Ashraf-3 camp near Albania's capital Tirana.

"The MKO heads are making preparations for the gradual pullout of their members [from Albania]," the source said.

The source noted that the MKO terrorists have failed to obtain France's consent for the relocation of a number of their elements to a camp in Auvers-sur-Oise on the northwestern outskirts of Paris. The MKO terrorists have employed their lobbies in

the Canadian government, the source noted, adding that arrangements have been made to relocate the MKO elements with temporary Canadian passports or temporary resident permits in Canada in the first step.

Last week, the government of Albania banned Maryam Rajavi, the ringleader of the terrorist MKO group, from entering the country.



A checkpoint set up outside MKO's camp in Tirana, Albania
● TASNIM



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iranian MPs meet Hezbollah chief, Palestinian parties

A delegation of senior members of the Iranian Parliament met and held talks with the head of the Lebanese resistance movement, Hezbollah, as well as Palestinian parties in Beirut on Saturday.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, secretary general of Hezbollah, met with the Iranian parliamentary delegation led by the Chairman of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian Parliament Vahid Jalalzadeh, IRNA reported on Saturday, citing



a report by Alahad News Network.

The two sides discussed a range of issues concerning the region and the latest developments in Lebanon and Palestine.

The Iranian delegation had also visited the Syrian capital Damascus.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah (third-R) meets with Iranian parliamentary delegation in Beirut, Lebanon, on August 12, 2023.
● IRNA