

## Wiring unfrozen funds to Qatar to finish next week

**IRNA** - Qatari FM Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said that the process of wiring Iran's unfrozen funds in South Korea to bank accounts in Qatar under a prisoner exchange deal with the US will be completed next week.

Al Thani made the remarks in a phone conversation on Thursday with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

Qatar has been a mediator in talks that led to a prisoner exchange deal between Iran and the United States that was made public on August 10.

## Tehran to soon access another \$10b of its blocked funds



**PRESS TV** - A senior Iranian businessman has revealed that the country will soon have access to another chunk of its funds that have been blocked in banks in other countries because of US sanctions.

Majid Reza Hariri, who chairs the Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce, said that the funds that are going to be unfrozen will be worth \$10 billion. Hariri said in a post on the X platform that there are "rumors about the release of another \$10 billion" without elaborating on the country or countries where they are kept.

## Iran, Cuba plan to establish joint tech center



**TASNIM** - Officials from Iran and Cuba weighed plans to set up a joint technology and innovation center to promote cooperation between the two countries' technological companies.

In a meeting held in Havana on Friday, Iran's Vice President for Science and Technology Rouhollah Dehqani, and Cuba's Minister of Science, Technology and Environment Elba Rosa Perez Montoya stressed the need to develop mutual cooperation in the field of technology.

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# China's independent refiners stocking up on Iran's crude despite US sanctions



● SHANA

### Economy Desk

The latest figures show that the demand for Iranian crude is growing in Chi-

na, the world's biggest oil importer, after the extension of supply cuts by Saudi Arabia and Russia and as Tehran is stepping up its oil

output and exports under-terred by US sanctions. Iran's crude exports of about 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) stand at

their highest in more than four years, with more than 80% shipped to China, data from consultancies FGE and Vortexa show, according to Press TV.

Iran Nasser, managing director of FGE, noted that imports of Iranian crude by China's independent refiners could rise another 200,000 bpd to 300,000 bpd, from 1.2 million bpd to 1.3 million bpd now, if prices stay low, although volumes could be capped by buyers' risk appetite and payment constraints.

A senior State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters that the United States continues to enforce the sanctions on Iran's oil and petrochemical industries. Beijing has long said it opposes Washington's "long-arm" jurisdiction, and has urged that sanctions on Iran be dropped.

Iran is exporting about two million bpd of crude oil, as well as condensate and products, as Tehran

has boosted production to nearly 3.6 million bpd, say people familiar with the matter, or near its maximum of about four million bpd. In China, traders and analysts say, Iranian oil is bought by independent refineries concentrated in the coastal province of Shandong.

According to figures by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Iran continued to increase its oil production in August, to reach a milestone figure of three million barrels per day.

OPEC data cited in reports published in local Iranian media on September 13 showed that Iran's oil output had increased by 143,000 bpd, or five percent, last month, compared to production figures reported in July.

The figures showed that Iran had regained its position as the third largest oil producer in OPEC in August, behind Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

### Economy Desk

Astana and Tehran are studying ways to boost the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) cooperation with an eye on Iranian northern and southern ports, said Kazakh Ambassador to Iran Askhat Orazbay.

Speaking at a press conference on the comprehensive economic reforms in a state-of-the-nation address of the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the envoy noted the Kazakh leader has plans to establish the Central Asian country as a major transit hub in Eurasia, focusing on key routes like the Trans-Caspian corridor and the INSTC.

## Kazakhstan, Iran studying ways to boost INSTC cooperation: Envoy

The Kazakh diplomat emphasized that the capacities of the INSTC should be used more, and added that logistics transportation between Iran and Kazakhstan is a big program, as Iran will connect Kazakhstan to third

countries through the Persian Gulf. Referring to the state-of-the-nation address by Tokayev, the ambassador said the Kazakh leader has acknowledged several significant achievements in

the past few years, including the doubling of salaries for teachers since 2020, significant salary increases for doctors, and the implementation of initiatives like the "National Fund for Children," and the construction

of over 300 health care facilities in rural areas.

Tokayev also has indicated an ambitious vision for Kazakhstan to become an IT-focused country, as he stated, "We are among the world leaders in the e-gov-

ernment and fintech development index."

The Kazakh president directed the government to increase the export of IT services to \$1 billion by 2026, saying that this will be facilitated by partnerships with major foreign IT companies. The address also focused on developing the agricultural sector, gasification, addressing water security, Orazbay said.

Pointing to the rising trend of Tehran-Astana relations, the ambassador announced the official invitation of Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi to visit Astana, saying, "The invitation has been accepted by the Iranian side, but the time has not been determined yet."

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
 Cartoonist



## IranPlast among biggest polymer expositions in Mideast: NPC

Iran's International Exhibition of Plastics, Rubber, Machinery and Equipment is one of the biggest polymer expositions in the Middle East, said the National Petrochemical Company investment manager on Friday. Reza Nekouei added the upcoming 17th edition of the expo, commonly known as IranPlast International Exhibition, is the most important event of supplementary and midstream industries of Iran's petrochemical sector, Shana reported. The expo, which has been highly welcomed by domes-

tic and foreign companies, will help promote cooperation between different sections of domestic polymer industry, he mentioned. The NPC investment manager called for Iranian participants to explore ways of completing value chain and offering products having higher added value and identifying investment capacities through exchanging views with other experts. Nekouei added the industrialists' presence in the exhibition will also help Iran achieve its target: 19-million-ton polymer production

capacity in 2027. According to him, foreign investors, mainly from neighboring states, managers of international companies, ambassadors, and economic consultants from different states will visit the expo and hold talks with their Iranian counterparts. Earlier, the exhibition director, Farid Dousti, announced that 560 domestic and 210 foreign companies will participate in the expo, which will be held at the Tehran International Permanent Fairgrounds, from September 17-20.