

## Iran Receives More Frozen Oil Money

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran has received the thirteenth and fourteenth installments of its assets, which had been frozen overseas due to the sanctions imposed on the country. The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) received the installments as part of the second phase of the unblocking of the country's frozen assets, agreed on between the Islamic Republic and world powers under an interim nuclear accord last year. An amount of \$500 million, which had been frozen in South Korea, and \$400 million, blocked in India, were transferred to the bank for the second phase's fifth and sixth installments respectively.

# Kayhan International



## MP: Talks Revealed U.S. Not Reliable

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- A senior Iranian legislator said Wednesday that nuclear talks between the Islamic Republic and the six major world powers revealed that the United States is not a reliable country. MP Alaeddin Boroujerdi said Iran's negotiating partners must live up to their commitments based on the Joint Plan of Action, signed between the two sides in the Swiss city of Geneva last November. "The Islamic Republic of Iran displayed its sincerity with respect to this accord, but America is trying to weaken the pillars of this agreement by announcing new sanctions," he said.

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**Viewpoint**  
By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer  
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## Europeans Weigh Recognition of Palestine

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) — Frustrated by deadlock in the so-called Middle East peace process, a growing number of European leaders and lawmakers are calling for unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state.

That movement took a step forward Wednesday as members of the European Parliament began debating whether they can agree on a common approach for the European Union's 28 member states.

Recognition of a country is a decision for national governments. But EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini told lawmakers meeting in Strasbourg, France that the bloc needs to forge "a united and strong message" to influence events.

On Oct. 30, Sweden's government became the first Western European nation in the EU to recognize Palestinian statehood. Since then, lawmakers in Britain, Spain and Ireland have approved non-binding motions urging recognition. French legislators are scheduled to debate a similar measure on Friday.

The trend in favor of recognition has aroused both alarm and

approval among the occupying regime of Israel. Zionist PM Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday warned that it would encourage the Palestinians to "harden their positions" and make "peace" harder to achieve.

Others said the Europeans' actions, and the snowball effect they might have, could force the Zionist regime back to the negotiating table with the Palestinians for substantive talks.

"Without European pressure, nothing here will budge," said Alon Liel, a former director of the occupying regime of Israel's foreign ministry.

Germany, the Zionist regime's closest European ally and the EU's most powerful member, is a leading opponent of recognizing Palestinian statehood before Israel does. To do so, German officials say, would do more harm than good.

Chancellor Angela Merkel said Friday that her government supports a two-state solution as a durable formula for peace. She added that "we also believe that unilateral recognition of the Palestinian state won't move us forward".

## Minister: Pakistan Gas Deal Still Viable

VIENNA (Dispatches) -- Iran's oil minister said Wednesday plans to extend a natural gas pipeline to Pakistan were still on the table.

"Pakistan has signed a deal to import 760 million cubic meters of natural gas per day from Iran and by the beginning of 2015, it should start receiving this amount of gas according to agreement," Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said.

Once dubbed the Peace Pipeline, and including India as the terminal country, Iran has long held out its gas reserves as an opportunity for Eastern trading partners. Washington and its Western allies, however, have backed a rival project that would stretch from one of the world's largest natural gas fields in Turkmenistan through Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

According to Zanganeh, a clause in the gas pipeline contract means Pakistan would pay at least \$3 million to Iran for project delays.

The oil minister said Iran was willing to consider amending the country to facilitate the project's development.

"Whenever the Pakistanis construct their domestic gas pipeline network, Iran would start gas delivery to its eastern neighbor," he said.

Zanganeh said Iran is committed to its gas contract with Pakistan, urging the country to show the same commitment.

"Iran has almost completed the establishment of the Iran-Pakistan pipeline in its territory and is ready to export gas to Pakistan as soon as the country builds its own section of the pipeline," he said.

The minister noted that Iran's gas output during March 21 - November 21, 2014 has increased by 100 mcm year-on-year and amounted to more than 600 mcm per day.

Islamabad would initially receive 20 mcm of gas per day after completing the remaining section of the Iran-Pakistan pipeline in its territory.

The gas contract signed between Tehran and Islamabad requires the Pakistani government to pay \$3 million worth of compensation to Iran for each day of delay as of the beginning of 2015.

Following the Iranian oil ministry's ultimatums to Pakistan, demanding the country to complete the project on time, Pakistani Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi travelled to Iran to extend the deadline. Earlier, Deputy Oil Minister Ali Majedi said that Iran had spent \$2 billion on the establishment of the pipeline and would invest another \$1 billion to complete the project.

Majedi noted that even if the Pakistani government were to appoint the project's contractor right then, it would only be able to complete the project in about four years.

# Ferguson Fury Spreads Across U.S.



U.S. police arrest a protester in Ferguson, Missouri.

FERGUSON, Mo. (Dispatches) — Protests took place across the U.S. for the second consecutive night in wake of a grand jury declining to indict Ferguson officer Darren Wilson

on charges for killing 18-year-old Michael Brown in an August shooting. Hours after Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon decided to triple the National Guard presence in a still smoldering

St. Louis suburb, protesters again stood off with police on the streets. The rage spread out across the country. Large, mostly young crowds marched in at least a dozen

major U.S. cities, snarling traffic in Los Angeles and shutting down streets in Boston. In Manhattan, protesters moved through Times Square with their hands up — a silent rally cry for Brown, the teenager who was shot 3 1/2 months ago by Wilson.

The decision by a grand jury not to indict Wilson sparked several dozen fires and more than 60 arrests in St. Louis on Monday — a night of "lawlessness" that Nixon said could not be repeated.

But by 1:30 a.m. in Ferguson on Tuesday, police had made 44 arrests, including three assaults against police officers.

Speaking in Chicago, President Obama said he had asked Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. to convene a "series of regional meetings focused on building trust in our communities" and on making law enforcement fairer.

In Ferguson, anger about Brown's death stems from what many here describe as a deeply ingrained distrust between majority African American communities and largely white authorities.

Damage was severe enough that several downtown Ferguson blocks were designated as a crime scene.

(Continued on Page 7)

## Majlis Approves Science Minister

TEHRAN (Dispatches) — Iran's parliament on Wednesday approved President Hassan Rouhani's nominee for ministry of science, ending a long standoff between the president and the assembly.

In a vote, 197 out of 235 lawmakers voted to approve Muhammad Farhadi as new head of the science, research and technology ministry.

Farhadi, a physician who specializes in ear, nose and throat ailments, is currently the head of Iran's Red Crescent Society. He previously served as minister of health under

former president Muhammad Khatami.

Rouhani attended the parliament session on Wednesday to defend the qualifications of his nominee; Farhadi is the fifth nominee proposed by Rouhani for the post.

"(My government) respects the will of parliament under any circumstances but our first reference is public opinion, and the people's preference is for moderate discourse," Rouhani said without elaboration.

Farhadi also addressed the assembly, saying, "If the parliament trusts me for this important position, God willing, I will seek a fundamental revolution in the science ministry by appointing qualified managers."

Earlier in August the parliament impeached and sacked science minister Reza Faraji Dana on the charge of trying to bring back liberal professors and students.

His second pick -- Fakhroddin Ahmadi Danesh-Ashtiani, who served as deputy education minister under Khatami -- was rejected by lawmakers last week after they screened

video footage of him calling for the closure of universities during post-election riots.

The science ministry post has been vacant since August when parliament sacked Faraji Dana, accusing him of appointing too many officials with links to the 2009 sedition.

Since Rouhani took the office, parliamentarians have repeatedly challenged his Cabinet nominees, accusing him of nominating ministers who are too friendly with the West or who back "sedition" against the Islamic Republic.

## Iran Calls for Unity to Boost Oil Prices

VIENNA (Dispatches) -- OPEC needs non-members to help address an oil supply glut that is set to grow next year, Iran's oil minister said here Wednesday.

"All the experts in the markets believe that we have an oversupply on the market and next year we will have more oversupply," Bijan Namdar Zanganeh told reporters.

But Zanganeh said it was not solely up to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to tackle the oversupply which is sending crude prices crashing to

four-year low points.

"To deal with this situation we need to have a contribution from non-OPEC producers for managing the market," he told reporters on arrival in Vienna, where the organization is headquartered.

Thursday's meeting of OPEC is the most significant in recent years after crude futures have sunk by more than 30% since June on plentiful oil supplies, a strong dollar and worries about stalling energy demand in a weak global economy. OPEC, which pumps out about

one-third of the world's oil, is under pressure from its poorer members like Venezuela and Ecuador to cut output as tumbling prices have slashed their precious revenues.

However the organization's Persian Gulf members, led by kingpin Saudi Arabia, have rejected calls for a cut unless they are guaranteed market share in the highly competitive arena.

Zanganeh said he had an "excellent" meeting with Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi and that their positions were now "very close".

"(There is) unity inside OPEC that we should monitor the market carefully and to react at the convenient time for managing the market," Zanganeh said when asked whether an agreement between members was emerging a day ahead of the OPEC meeting.

OPEC pumped 30.6 million barrels per day (bpd) last month, above its 30 million bpd target, according to the International Energy Agency, which advises countries on energy policy.

(Continued on Page 7)