

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) is preparing to lodge an official complaint against South Korea, said a report Saturday, as Seoul refuses to return Iranian funds blocked in the country allegedly to comply with U.S. sanctions on Tehran. The ILNA news agency cited backchannel information saying that the CBI has already kicked off the process to launch an official complaint against two South Korean banks that have frozen nearly \$8.5 billion of Iranian funds under pressure from the United States. "Word has it that our country's central bank has started preparations for (filing) a complaint against (South) Korea," said the report.



WARSAW (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo sealed a military cooperation deal Saturday with Polish officials that will pave the way to redeploy American troops from Germany to Poland. Pompeo, in Warsaw at the end of a four-nation tour of central and eastern Europe, signed the deal with Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak that sets out the legal framework for the additional troops. Some 4,500 U.S. troops are currently based in Poland, but about 1,000 more are to be added. Last month, the Pentagon announced that 12,000 troops would be withdrawn from Germany with about 5,600 moving to other countries in Europe, including Poland.

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Viewpoint

A Desperate Move to Avert the Inevitable

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah:

'Zionists to Pay Equal Price' If Behind Beirut Blast

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Hezbollah head Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said on Friday that the Lebanese resistance movement would wait for results of an investigation into the Beirut port explosion, but if it turns out to be an act of sabotage by the occupying regime of Israel then it would "pay an equal price".

Nasrallah said in a televised speech that the two theories under investigation were that either an accident due to negligence, or sabotage caused the explosion of warehoused ammonium nitrate.

The Zionist regime has denied any involvement in the Aug. 4 blast that killed 172 people, injured 6,000, damaged swathes of the city and left 300,000 homeless, but its provocative moves in the lead-up to the explosion has raised many suspicions.

Lebanon's president has said investigators were looking into negligence, an accident or "external interference".

Nasrallah said that among sabotage possibilities, was a deliberate fire or the planting of a small bomb. "Who could be behind an act of sabotage? It could be this side or that, and it could be Israel, which nobody can deny," he said.

Hezbollah was waiting for the Lebanese probe's results and if it found "this was a terrorist sabotage operation, and that Israel had a role, then not only Hezbollah will respond. The entire Lebanese state ... must respond," he said. "Israel will pay a price the size of the crime if it committed it."

Hezbollah has fought many wars with the occupying regime of Israel and famously shattered its myth of invincibility several times.

Lebanon's Prosecutor General has pressed charges against 25 people, including senior port and customs officials, a judicial source said on Friday.

Nasrallah spoke shortly after Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif said while in Beirut that the international community should help Lebanon rather than impose its will on the country.

"It is not humane to exploit the pain and suffering of the people for political goals," Zarif said, adding that Lebanon should decide on its future.

Western states have linked financial assistance to reform of the Lebanese state, which has defaulted on its huge sovereign debts, in a clear example of meddling in Lebanon's internal affairs.

Visiting U.S. Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale said Lebanon needs to enact financial reforms, establish

state control over ports and borders, and revamp the power sector.

French Defense Minister Florence Parly called for the formation of a government capable of taking "courageous decisions".

Nasrallah on Friday supported Lebanon's investigation into the Beirut port, but Hale said a team of FBI investigators is due to arrive in Lebanon this weekend to take part in the probe, prompting questions if Washington is worried about the results of the Lebanese government's investigations.

Hale also stressed the need for full control over ports and borders in Lebanon. "We can never go back to an era in which anything goes at the port or borders of Lebanon," he said.

Nasrallah said he did not trust any foreign investigation, in a clear reference to the FBI's purported assistance.

He also called on the Lebanese to remain patient and resilient in the wake of the deadly blast, warning that some specific factions in the Arab country were seeking to use people's misery to take down the state.

"Some political powers in Lebanon seek to take down state for personal, foreign interests," he said.

Nasrallah also said that Lebanon's government needed to be supported by political factions and parliament, calling for a new Lebanese government that has political protection.

Ukraine
Ethnographic
Festival Screens
Iranian Documentary



Bayern Thrash
Barcelona 8-2 in
UEFA Champions
League Quarters



Iraqi Parl't
Coalition Asks
for Sanctions
Against UAE



UN Security Council Defeats American Resolution

World Nations Side With Iran Against U.S.



Flags fly outside the United Nations headquarters, Sept. 28, 2019.

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) — **The UN Security Council on Friday resoundingly defeated a U.S. resolution to indefinitely extend the UN arms embargo on Iran, with the Trump administration getting support from only the Dominican Republic but vowing further action to prevent Tehran's sale and export of conventional weapons.**

The vote in the 15-member council was two in favor, two against and 11 abstentions, leaving it far short of the minimum nine "yes" votes required for adoption. Russia and China strongly opposed the resolution, but didn't need to use their vetoes.

The Trump administration has said repeatedly it will not allow the arms embargo provision in the Security Council resolution endorsing the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and six major powers to expire as scheduled Oct. 18.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the defeat of the resolution ahead of a very brief virtual council meeting to reveal the vote.

He said the occupying regime of Israel and its Arab friends in the Persian Gulf who supported the extension "know Iran will spread even greater chaos and destruc-

tion if the embargo expires, but the Security Council chose to ignore them."

"The United States will never abandon our friends in the region who expected more from the Security Council," Pompeo said in a statement.

U.S. Ambassador Kelly Craft said "the United States stands sickened — but not surprised — as the clear majority of council members gave the green light to Iran to buy and sell all manner of conventional weapons."

Pompeo suggested the U.S. would invoke the "snapback" mechanism in the 2015 nuclear

deal that would restore all UN sanctions on Iran — and Craft said the United States would go ahead "in the coming days" and keep America's "promise to stop at nothing to extend the arms embargo."

"Snapback" was envisioned in the event Iran was proven to be in violation of the accord, under which it received billions of dollars in sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program.

President Donald Trump pulled out of the nuclear agreement between Iran and six major powers, known as the JCPOA, in 2018. But the U.S. circulated a six-page memo Thursday from State Department lawyers, claiming that the United States remains part of the 2015 Security Council resolution that endorsed the deal and still has the right to use the "snapback" provision.

The five other powers — Russia, China, United Kingdom, France and Germany — remain committed to the deal, and diplomats from several of these countries have voiced concern that extending the arms embargo would lead Iran to exit the nuclear agreement and speed up its nuclear energy program.

China's UN ambassador, Zhang Jun, reiterated after the vote the Chinese contention that since the U.S. is no longer party to the 2015 agreement, it is "ineligible to demand the Security Council invoke a snapback." He said the overwhelming

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President Rouhani:

'U.S. Failed in Its Conspiracy With Humiliation'

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- **Iran on Saturday hailed a UN Security Council vote rejecting a U.S. bid to extend an arms embargo on the Islamic Republic, saying Washington has "never been so isolated".**

President Hassan Rouhani said the United States had failed to kill off what he called the "half alive" 2015 nuclear deal with Iran. "The United States failed in this conspiracy with humiliation," Rouhani told a televised news conference.

"In my opinion, this day will go down in the history of our Iran and in the history of fighting global arrogance," he added.

Iran's Foreign Ministry mocked the Trump administration for only winning the support of one other country, the Dominican Republic.

"In the 75 years of United Nations history, America has never been so isolated," said ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi. "Despite all the trips, pressure and the hawking, the United States could only mobilize a small country (to vote) with them," he tweeted.

President Rouhani suggested tried to

make up for its political fiasco at the UN Security Council by claiming that it seized four tankers carrying Iranian gasoline bound for Venezuela.

"Having suffered the political defeat, the Americans claimed to have seized four Iranian vessels in international waters. It, however, turned out later that the tankers were neither Iranian nor Iran-flagged. It was all just fake news," he said.

The Wall Street Journal on Thursday cited U.S. officials as saying that Washington had for the first time seized vessels allegedly carrying Iranian gasoline to Venezuela. It claimed that the four vessels, called Luna, Pandi, Bering, and Bella, were being transferred to Houston, Texas after being seized in the high seas.

Iran's Ambassador to Venezuela Hojjat Soltani rejected the report as another "lie" and an instance of "psychological warfare."

"Neither are the tankers Iranian, nor have their owner or flags anything to do with Iran," he said in a Twitter post.

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Report: Mossad Chief Due in UAE in Coming Days

DUBAI (Dispatches) -- **The UAE has been forced to admit that its initial claim of having normalized ties with the occupying regime of Israel in exchange for Tel Aviv's cancellation of its annexation plans is far from the truth.**

UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash said Friday the primary achievement of the deal was the suspension of prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plans to annex large parts of the West Bank for a "long time".

"I think we have bought a lot of time... I don't think it is a short suspension," he told the Walla news site in an interview billed as the first by an Emirati minister with an Israeli news website.

On Thursday, Zionist leaders lined up to call UAE Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's bluff that Israel's annexation plans were off the table after the deal.

"There is no change to my plan to extend sovereignty, our sovereignty in Judea and Samaria, in full coordination with the United States," Netanyahu said in Jerusalem Al-Quds, using the biblical name for the oc-

cupied West Bank.

A senior Israeli source said the Trump administration had requested to temporarily suspend the announcement of annexations "to first implement the historic peace agreement with the UAE".

U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman too said of the annexation, "It's off the table now but it's not off the table permanently. You can't have peace and annexation at the same time."

Nevertheless, the UAE wants to push forward on normalization with Israel "as soon as possible", Gargash said. "I see teams meeting in order to address many of the areas of interest in Israel and in the UAE."

Gargash specified that the fields the UAE wanted cooperate with the Zionist regime on included agriculture, food security, cyber security, tourism, technology and trade.

An Israeli delegation is reportedly about to travel to the United Arab Emirates early next week to meet with the Persian Gulf state's top leaders.

Israel's Channel 12 television said a senior

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