

NEWS IN BRIEF

President voices support for nuclear industry

PRESS TV – Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi says his administration will continue supporting the nuclear industry within the framework of Iran's national interests, echoing earlier statements by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. Addressing a cabinet session on Sunday, Raisi said the nuclear industry is among driving industries in the country. He hailed grand achievements made by young Iranian scientists in this sector.

Talks with U.S. only held indirectly: Adviser to Iranian team

IFP – An adviser to Iran's nuclear negotiating team has rejected reports on secret direct talks with the U.S.

Mohammad Marandi told Al-Araby that all talks between Iran and the U.S. are indirect, held through such intermediaries as Oman or the United Nations, adding that the Iranian and American officials do not even sit in the same room during negotiations.

Earlier, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian told French newspaper Le Figaro that the diplomatic process and discussions with the European Union on the nuclear issue continue.

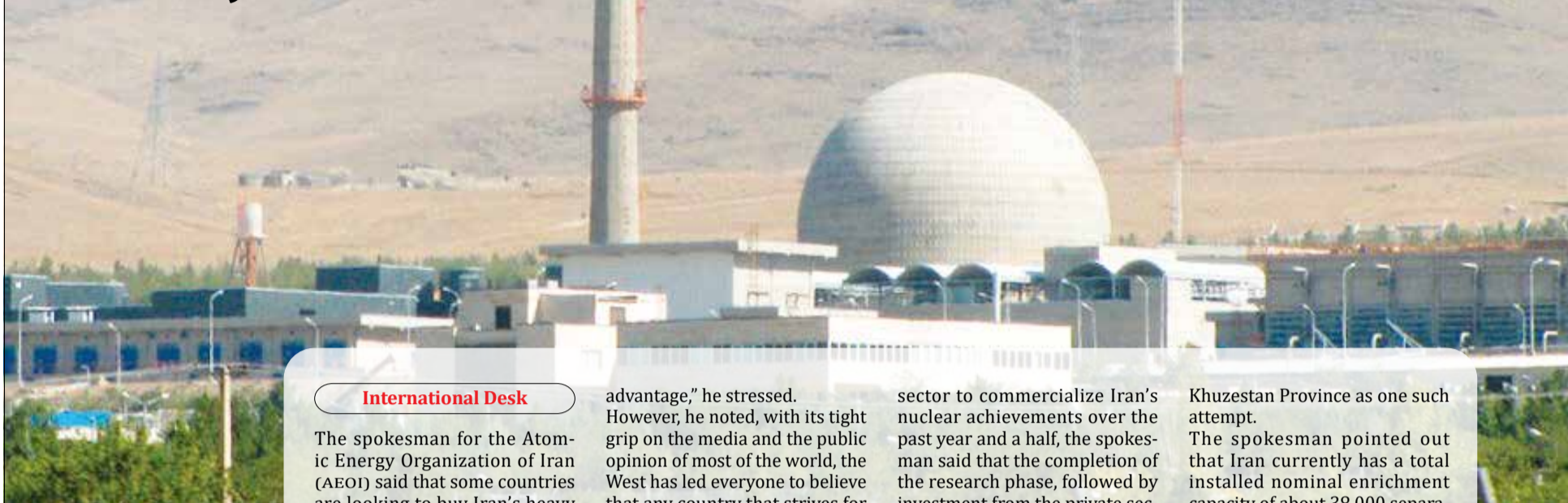
Assad stresses coordination on Syria peace talks

MEHR – Syrian President Bashar al-Assad stressed the need for maintaining coordination with Iran regarding talks on establishing peace in Syria.

Assad made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister's Senior Adviser for Special Political Affairs Ali Asghar Khaji in Damascus on Monday.

Assad also called for defining a joint strategy, with the help of Iran and Russia, to explain the goals of future negotiations, whether it is about Turkey's withdrawal from Syria, the fight against terrorism, or other issues.

Iran aims to commercialize heavy water, nuclear achievements



International Desk

The spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said that some countries are looking to buy Iran's heavy water, adding that the commercialization of Iran's nuclear advancements is on the agenda. Behrouz Kamalvandi pointed out in a radio interview on Monday that the country's heavy water is priced at more than 1,000 dollars per liter, adding, "All is grist for the mill".

Admitting that "all the ruckus is understandably about uranium enrichment now," the official warned against overlooking other areas where the nuclear industry can leave a significant impact, including nuclear medicine, agriculture, and industry. "The fact that Iran can produce 20 percent [purity] nuclear fuel, heavy water derivatives, and nuclear medicines, which are more useful for treating certain diseases, shows that Iran is ahead of many countries in the world in those regards, and has a relative

advantage," he stressed.

However, he noted, with its tight grip on the media and the public opinion of most of the world, the West has led everyone to believe that any country that strives for highly enriched uranium is secretly pursuing a nuclear bomb. Even though the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei strictly prohibited the acquisition and use of nuclear weapons of mass destruction, and even though Iran has proudly passed the highest number of transparent inspections of its nuclear sites by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) with flying colors, Kamalvandi stated that the West continues to spread such lies to hamper Iran's progress.

"The fact of the matter is that the industry can bring high added value for us. We are talking about billions of dollars that can be raised in areas such as nuclear medicine and heavy water." Announcing that steps have been taken with the help of the private

sector to commercialize Iran's nuclear achievements over the past year and a half, the spokesman said that the completion of the research phase, followed by investment from the private sector, is needed before the country can generate income from its achievements.

It's the same process everywhere in the world, he maintained, adding that the private sector needs to see whether government research yields results before it makes a hefty investment in such advanced technology.

Referring to the Leader's statements concerning small modular reactors (SMRs), Kamalvandi said Iran is following the recent global trend, where constructing several smaller nuclear power plants is prioritized over constructing one larger nuclear power plant to meet the power needs of a city.

"Constructing SMRs requires lower investment and yields a good return faster," he said, citing the construction of the Darkhovin Nuclear Power Plant in

Khuzestan Province as one such attempt.

The spokesman pointed out that Iran currently has a total installed nominal enrichment capacity of about 38,000 separative work units (SWU) per year, which can be upped to 40,000 SWUs.

"The Iranian Parliament's Strategic Action Law unshackled the AEOI to increase its enrichment capacities while staying perfectly in touch with the IAEA in accordance with the decrees of the Leader," he added.

"The West has been making excessive demands that go far beyond the IAEA safeguards. But if they are not going to honor their commitments, there is no reason for Iran to give in to such demands."

Kamalvandi echoed the recent statements by Ayatollah Khamenei by saying that a deal with the West is acceptable only if Iran's nuclear infrastructure remained intact, as they lay the groundwork for many good, peaceful uses for Iranians.

Enemies fear Tehran's détente policy in Mideast: Sunni cleric

EXCLUSIVE

A senior Iranian Sunni cleric on Monday hailed Iran's recent agreement with Saudi Arabia to resolve long-standing disputes and its willingness to restore relations with Egypt, saying the diplomatic endeavors have instilled fear among enemies.

Iran and Saudi Arabia hold significant importance among Muslim countries, and their rapprochement has caused fears among enemies," Faeq Rostami, who represents Kurdistan Province in the Assembly of Experts — a top clerical

body that chooses Iran's leader and oversee his performance — told Iran Daily.

"The United States and Western nations are well aware that a thaw in ties between the two countries would put an end to the era during which they established a military presence in the region."

Rostami noted that Iran's proactive approach in resuming relations with Saudi Arabia has yielded "numerous positive outcomes" for both countries and the Muslim world. "We are now witnessing that

other Muslims nations are also burying the hatchet" in the wake of Iran-Saudi Arabia détente, he pointed out.

The top Kurdish cleric warned that a division within the Islamic world would provide enemies with opportunities to reach their nefarious objectives to damage Muslim nations.

"Muslims should steer clear of discord and promote unity under Islam," Rostami added.

He highlighted Islam's message of "peaceful coexistence" and urged



IRAN DAILY

Muslim scholars around the globe to come together regularly.

"Holding annual meetings attended by Muslim scholars would help clear up misunderstandings, foster closer ties within the Islamic world, and create a united front against enemies."

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Messages of Iran's presence ...

Iran's diplomatic reach extends beyond its neighbors and the West Asian region, encompassing East Asia all the way to South America. The Iranian president's visit to in the "backyard" of the United States, namely South America, holds a symbolic significance that underscores the futility of America's attempts to isolate Tehran. Iran's diplomatic endeavors have now reached the doorstep of the United States.

Raisi's trip holds economic significance for Iran as well. Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua possess ample economic opportunities that can partially fulfill Iran's needs. Naturally, these countries can serve as promising markets for Iranian goods. It is evident that these nations are inclined to cultivate relations with Tehran based on their national interests. This implies that Tehran also holds advantages for these

three countries. Iran can extend assistance to South American nations in areas such as energy, technology exports, industries, and services. In essence, both Iran and the South American countries stand to benefit from the growth of their political and economic ties.

While President Raisi's government has prioritized its foreign policy toward neighboring and Eastern countries, this does not indicate indifference toward opportunities and the potential for establishing better relations with other regions across the globe. Whenever the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran demand it, the government readily seizes these opportunities to help overcome economic challenges. South America is one such opportunity that can serve as a gateway to Iran's economy, and the government has demonstrated its attentiveness to this prospect.

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