

## Nuclear desalination ...

These initiatives are expected to be implemented soon, addressing a considerable portion of the country's water supply issues, he said.

The deputy head of AEOI expressed that this signifies a tangible application of nuclear energy, illustrating how nuclear energy can directly contribute to people's lives.

He stressed that "the use of atomic energy and peaceful nuclear technology to improve the quality of life of the people is an underrepresented and often overlooked aspect, which the general public may not be fully aware of. However, this technology can play a crucial role in tackling significant challenges like water scarcity and industrial effluents."

Furthermore, Shirmardi highlighted that peaceful nuclear technology can effectively address water conservation and fresh water production. Countries around the world face critical challenges related to treating industrial effluents, reducing air pollution, and preserving food for extended periods. Fortunately, scientists have discovered effective and safe methods to address these issues using nuclear technology, offering promising solutions for the future, he concluded.

## Iranian court to try 104 MKO members



● IRNA

AFP – A criminal court in Tehran published an advertisement on Saturday, naming 104 fugitive members of the anti-Iran Mujahedeen Khalq Organization (MKO) terrorist group, calling on them to appoint defense attorneys for themselves within a month.

The advertisement said that since a lawsuit had been filed against them earlier and since their whereabouts were unknown, they would have to come forward and name their attorneys.

"Otherwise, the necessary decision would be taken according to law."

Among the individuals named were Masoud Rajavi and Maryam Qajar Azodanlou (Rajavi), the ring-leaders of the MKO terrorist group.

Last month, Albanian police raided a camp where the members of the MKO were housed, seizing computer devices linked to prohibited activities. Later, Fars news agency reported that some of the devices seized in the raid had been handed over to Iran.

# Iran to sue South Korea over frozen funds



### International Desk

The incumbent Iranian government has commenced formal legal proceedings

against South Korea, which has refused to pay off oil debts after extensive diplomatic efforts. In a letter, dated July 22,

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi referred a governmental bill about the financial dispute with South Korea to Speaker of Par-

liament Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, according to Tasnim news agency. According to the bill, ratified by the cabinet on July

5, the dispute between the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Government of South Korea is going to arbitration.

South Korea was the third largest customer of Iranian crude oil and the number one buyer of Iranian condensate before 2018 when former US president Donald Trump pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal and re-imposed sanctions on Iran.

Since then, the East Asian country has refused to repatriate the funds it owes Iran for energy imports due to fears of US penalties on its economy.

Unofficial estimates suggest



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (l) and Governor of Central Bank of Iran Mohammadreza Farzin

● TASNIM

Iran has more than \$7 billion worth of funds in two South Korean banks that it cannot access simply because banks and authorities

in the East Asian country refuse to process them because of fears of facing US penalties.

Earlier this year, Iranian media outlets reported that Seoul and Tehran were holding working-level consultations seeking ways to resolve the issue of Iranian assets frozen in South Korea.

Iranian officials have stated the South Korean government is obliged to release the country's frozen funds, stressing that unilateral US sanctions cannot justify Seoul's inaction in repaying debts to Tehran, Press TV wrote.

The two sides had previously agreed to use the funds for the purchase of humanitarian items by Iran, something that has again been prevented as a result of South Korea's commitment to the illegal US sanctions.

Tehran has imposed restrictions on imports from South Korea in retaliation for Seoul's illegal compliance with the US sanctions.

## Malley saga no ...

Malley had discussions

with Iranian representa-

tives in

Oman,

Qatar, and New York. It is undisputed that he represented the US administration and made every effort in his negotiations to preserve or gain more concessions for the United States. Similarly, Iranian representatives also pursued the same principle of seeking greater concessions, and this very approach might be one of the reasons for the protracted negotiations.

However, the specifics behind Malley's dismissal are not clear, and it is uncertain who might benefit from his removal or whether it is a set-up against him, as some media outlets have suggested. Despite Iran's focus on developing relations with China and Russia, the Islamic Republic has not

neglected resolving its disputes with the West. The Iranian government engaged in several rounds of negotiations with Western counterparts to lift sanctions and even conducted talks for prisoner exchanges.

In recent months, discussions between Iranian and American delegations have taken place in Oman, Qatar, and even New York. Consequently, it is natural for the Iranian government, who had been committed to the negotiation process, not to be pleased with any halt or failure to achieve results. Emphasizing a principled framework to safeguard interests does not imply opposition to negotiations or a lack of willingness to reach a conclusion.

On the other hand, the US administration, despite facing pressure from Republican rivals

over negotiating with Iran, considers reaching an agreement with Iran a significant achievement, particularly due to the severe criticism of Trump's policies toward the Iran nuclear deal during Biden's election campaign. US officials currently view Trump's withdrawal from the JCPOA as a mistake. Any agreement with Iran, regardless of its specifics, would be beneficial for Americans, providing them with a better opportunity to focus their efforts on traditional competition with China and managing the situation in Ukraine. It seems that these very considerations have led them not to display a negative reaction toward the Iran-Saudi Arabia agreement and their regional détente. The diplomatic negotiations over the past few months between Iran and

some regional countries such as Oman and Qatar indicate that Tehran and Washington are on a path to easing tensions and resolving disputes. While normalizing relations between the two countries, if there is a willingness for it, may have a long way to go, both sides have preferred to prevent further escalations in line with their national interests.

In this context, there were talks about reaching a temporary understanding between Iran and the United States with the goal of initially managing the existing tensions, in order to prevent their exacerbation. This temporary agreement could potentially pave the way for more comprehensive talks to clinch a more sustainable deal in the future.

In the midst of these negotiations, it appears that certain third parties, such as Israel, do not want to see any management or control of tensions be-

tween Iran and the US. These parties prefer that the US remains preoccupied with their issues rather than focusing on them. For example, despite strategic relations with Israel, the US has criticized Benjamin Netanyahu's hardline policies. Other states also view American attention on Iran as beneficial for their military or economic rivalry with Washington.

In addition to these negative influences from external actors, there are political factions within the US and Iran that are not interested in mitigating tensions through dialogue for various reasons. It is clear that Republicans in the US oppose any agreements Democrats make with Iran. Moreover, Israeli lobbies and the limited influence of the Iranian opposition in the US political landscape may also play destructive roles in relation to Iran-US relationship.

Therefore, any blow to

diplomacy, as a reasonable option for managing tensions and a means to lift sanctions, will be welcomed by states or powerhouses that perceive their interests in the continuation or escalation of tensions between Tehran and Washington.

Recent media controversies surrounding Malley might help the opponents of managing Iran-US tensions and the resumption of negotiations to revive the JCPOA and lift sanctions. Nevertheless, what truly matters are the official positions of the governments involved, not media evaluations or analyses.

Although there are ambiguities and doubts about how this confidential audio file was leaked, there is a clear distinction between media positions and official government stances. Thus, it does not seem that such peripheral issues would seriously hinder the resumption of Iran-US talks.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## US threatens Kenya over links to Iran

### International Desk

The administration of US President Joe Biden warned that Washington's allies, especially Kenya, will face a "reputation risk" and potential isolation from lucrative deals in case of having links to Iran and Russia.

Brian Nelson, the US Treasury's undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, raised the alarm in a meeting with Kenya's President William Ruto on Friday, Press TV reported.

"Iran and Russia are isolat-



Brian Nelson, the Treasury's undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence

● TheEastAfrican

ed economically, and either they are looking for partners or they are looking for new channels to have economic relationships," Nelson claimed. He, however, stressed that

by doing so, the US was not in any way interfering with the bilateral ties of either Kenya or any other country. "We are not going to provide a view on the bilateral relationship between Kenya and any other country in the world as that is for Kenya to decide," said Nelson in an interview with TheEastAfrican.

The Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi held talks with his counterparts in Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe earlier this month and signed a total of 21 documents on cooperation in different areas.