

# Tehran hosts conference on combating money laundering, financing terrorism

## Economy Desk

The National Conference on Combating Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism was held in Tehran on Tuesday.

Addressing the conference, Iran's minister of economic affairs and finance said that Iran's position in interaction with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is active, not passive, IRNA reported.

Ehsan Khandouzi added that his ministry expects the FATF to adopt a technical rather than political approach in its evaluation. The minister pointed to the situation of Iran's membership at the FATF and added, "According to the financial and judicial reports, salient measures have been taken in the country in the field of fighting against money laundering and financing terrorism which is unprecedented."

The economic experience of Iran in the determination (and blocking) of the path of financing money laundering and terrorism



is an experience that has higher standards compared to many countries of the world which have adopted

normal positions in the assessment of the FATF situation, the economy minister stated.

Iranian Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Ehsan Khandouzi addresses the National Conference on Combating Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism was held in Tehran on August 22, 2023.  
● ALI HASSANPOUR/IRAN DAILY

## Iran among five producers of heavy water

Heavy water is the second strategic nuclear material after uranium in the world and Iran is one of the five countries producing this compound with high purity and production efficiency which many countries are looking to buy despite sanctions.

Under the 2015 nuclear deal, Iran is allowed to use heavy water in its modified Arak nuclear reactor, but must sell any excess supply of both heavy water and enriched uranium on the international market, Press TV wrote.

The deal requires that the heavy water inventory not exceed 130 tonnes, but the US withdrawal from the agreement in 2018 has allowed Iran to ramp up production and see its stocks snapped up on the market.

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Eslami told journalists during a Friday tour of the Heavy Water Production Plant in Khondab near Arak that Iran's heavy water has many clients. He said the country is now investing in heavy water

derivatives.

"Our clients have noticed the high quality and purity of Iran's heavy water," he said. "Heavy water derivatives are very expensive and we are completing investment in this high added value chain." The US had undertaken to buy 32 tonnes of Iranian heavy water for use in its nuclear reactors, but it stopped the purchase after former president Donald Trump unilaterally abandoned the agreement.

After years of fits and starts, Iran's nuclear industry is coming of age, having weathered the most intrusive international inspections ever in the world which put the brakes on the pace of its progress but never managed to stop it.

It is now where the nuclear economic prosperity is kicking in. According to Eslami, the

nuclear industry is one of the highest added value industries in the world. "We had neglected this important matter, but we want to pay attention to the nuclear economy in a special way," he said.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei called on officials in June to take necessary steps to commercialize nuclear products and services. "Iran's nuclear products and services must be commercialized. There is a good demand for our achievements in the international markets which can be used to help our economy and income. There should be cooperation with allied countries," he said.

Since 2021, Iran has registered 159 scientific achievements and counting in the fields of nuclear fuel, energy, laser, plasma, radiation,

environment as well as water and soil.

In the past one and half years, Eslami said, Iran's uranium enrichment capacity has grown as much as 11 years. When he took office only two uranium mines were operating, but the number has reached eight and will surpass 20 next year. Earlier this month, Iran unveiled a uranium mine in the northwestern Khoys region, which the Iranian nuclear chief touted as a "hub" for producing raw material needed in nuclear power production. The Jan-e Sar mine also contains molybdenum, and a number of other rare earth elements.

Heavy water, also known as deuterium oxide, is a compound made up of oxygen and deuterium which is a heavier isotope of hydrogen.

The heavy water produced at Khondab is used in a variety of fields, including biology, medicine, physics, industry, agriculture, oil and gas, but its most important application is in nuclear power plants

as a coolant and in production of radiopharmaceuticals. The Heavy Water Production Plant is one of the largest nuclear facilities in Iran. Its construction began in 1988 near the village of Khondab where all stages of design and implementation were carried out by Iranian experts. Two units of the complex, each capable of producing 8 tonnes of heavy water a year, came into operation in 2006, but the overall capacity rose to 20 tonnes in 2013.

Currently, Iran is capable of producing more than 100 tonnes of heavy water with high purity, a feat no country has ever been able to achieve, according to officials at the plant.

Other products of the plant include isotopic compounds, deuterated solvents and the stable isotope of oxygen-18 with 97% richness.

Oxygen-18 is an important precursor for the production of fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG), a radiotracer which is used to diagnose and determine treatment plans for patients with various types of cancer, cardiovascular and neurological diseases.

Iran is one of the key producers of oxygen-18, which has come into wide use recently, especially in developed countries. Several important European and Asian countries currently source the product and other deuterated compounds from Iran.

## Minister says incumbent gov't increased oil, gas output

SHANA - Iran's oil minister said increasing investment, completing unfinished projects, and boosting oil, gas, refining and petrochemical output have been the most important measures the Oil Ministry has carried out since two years ago.

Hailing the interaction between the Oil Ministry and the Parliament's Energy Committee Javad Owji added the oil industry would not witness such achievements if the committee did not support it.

## Over 4k villages connected to internet in two years

IRNA - Minister of Communications and Information Technology of Iran Issa Zarepour said that 4,013 villages across the country have been connected to the internet during the two years to August 2023.

The southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan accounts for the most of the connection, according to the minister.

Zarepour also pointed out that over 800 villages in Iran have been connected to Internet since late May 2023.

## Iran exports aquatic products to China, Russia



### Economy Desk

Iran's aquatics export has found its way to Chinese and Russian markets, said Seyyed Hossein Hosseini, the head of Iranian Fisheries Organization (IFO).

Iran produces 1.352 million tons of fishery products per annum, of which 751,000 tons pertains to fishing and 601,000 tons in the field of aquaculture in the Middle East, the official noted, according to IRNA.

Iran ranks first in aquatic protein production in the region, and ranks second among 32 countries in the field of offshore fishing in the Indian Ocean, using 800 vessels, with about 170,000 tons, Hosseini added.

"We enjoy suitable structures and infrastructure in fishing with 227 crossing points, 70 fishing ports, 120 unloading docks and 37 public docks, 98 percent of which were built after the Islamic revolution of Iran [1979]," the official stated.

Hosseini added that the sea is divided into three parts: shallow, deep, and surface waters, in which there is excessive fishing in shallow water, as if we do not take overharvesting seriously, it leads to a serious challenge in the future.



## Iran eases rules on exports of handwoven carpets

Head of Iran National Carpet Center (INCC) announced that the government has eased its rules on exports of handwoven carpets amid efforts to generate more hard currency revenues from the sector.

Farahnaz Rafe' said that the Iranian government will no longer require carpet exporters to supply their export proceeds to a system where importers can obtain hard currency at subsidized prices, Press TV reported. Rafe' said the measure is aimed at encouraging more exports of hand-woven carpets from Iran, a country known around the world for its high-quality rugs.

She said the requirement to return exports proceeds, which are applied to almost all exporters in Iran, had discouraged many carpet exporters over the past years and had led to a major reduction in shipments. "The finance ministry has approved this and soon there will be some good news in this regard," said the official.