

Iran's heavy water ranks first in world in terms of quality: *AEOI*



Spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Behrouz Kamalvandi said the heavy water produced in the country ranks first in the world in terms of quality, adding that Europeans are interested in its procurement from Tehran.

"Iran's heavy water ranks first in the world in terms of quality. European countries seek to purchase it

from us," Kamalvandi said in an interview with Mizan news agency, affiliated with the Iranian Judiciary, published on Saturday. He highlighted the AEOI's accomplishments in using nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, Press TV reported.

He added that Iran sells one liter of heavy water for \$1000. Heavy water derivatives

can be used in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer instead of the current high-risk methods and chemotherapy.

Tehran-IAEA relations
The AEOI spokesman also pointed to the current level of relations between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). "Despite several ups and downs, Iran has tried to es-

tablish a balanced relationship with the [UN nuclear] agency, and the relations are improving," he said. Iran has repeatedly voiced its readiness to resolve differences with the IAEA within a framework of constructive and mutual interaction and technical cooperation. The disputes between the two sides have been a sticking point in the talks

aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Elsewhere in his remarks, Kamalvandi referred to the nuclear industry's implications for people's lives, explaining that it has an impact on electricity generation, agriculture, and radiopharmaceuticals, among other things.

Technicians work at Iran's Arak heavy water reactor's secondary circuit, as officials and media visit the nuclear site, near Arak, Markazi Province, on December 23, 2019. ● AEOI

Thousands rally in Niger seeking French troops pullout

Thousands rallied Saturday in the Niger capital Niamey to demand that former colonial ruler France withdraw its troops as sought by a junta which seized power in June. The protesters gathered near a base housing French soldiers following a call by several civic organizations hostile to the French military presence in the West African country. Niger's military regime had fired a new verbal broadside at France on Friday, accusing Paris of "blatant interference" by backing the country's ousted president, as protestors held a similar protest near a French base outside Niamey. President Mohamed Bazoum, a French ally whose election in 2021 had stoked hopes of stability in the troubled country, was detained on July 26 by members of his guard.



Relations with France, the country's former colonial power and ally in its fight against terrorism, went swiftly downhill after Paris stood by Bazoum. On August 3, the regime announced the scrapping of military agreements with France, which has some 1,500 soldiers stationed in the country - a move that Paris has ignored on the grounds of legitimacy. The agreements cover different timeframes, although one of them dating from 2012 was set to

expire within a month, according to military leaders. The military rulers have also announced the immediate "expulsion" of the French Ambassador Sylvain Itte and announced it was withdrawing his diplomatic immunity. They said his presence was a threat to public order. But French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday hailed Itte's work in Niger and said he was in the country despite being given a 48-hour deadline to leave Niger last Friday.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



12 Iranians among 19 killed in Iraq road accident

National Desk
At least 19 people, including 12 Iranian pilgrims, were killed in a road accident in northern Iraq as millions of people converge on the holy city of Karbala for Arbáeen, one of the world's biggest religious gatherings. The accident, which occurred on Friday night between the cities of Du-jail and Samarra in Iraq's

Salaheddine Province, has also left at least 13 people injured, according to IRNA. Twelve Iranian nationals, four Afghans and three Iraqis have been killed in the tragic incident, the Iranian Red Crescent Society said on Saturday. The incident occurred after two minibuses crashed into each other shortly before midnight on Friday, a medical official in Salahed-

dine told AFP, on condition of anonymity, because he was not authorized to speak to the press. One of the drivers is believed to have fallen asleep at the wheel, the official said, citing witness accounts. Road accidents killed more than 4,900 people last year in Iraq, an average of 13 per day, according to the country's Health Ministry data.

Iran prepares new satellite for launch



TASNIM - Iran's Space Organization has taken delivery of a homegrown remote sensing satellite that is scheduled for blast-off after passing all tests. The "Tolu'-3" (Sunrise-3) satellite, manufactured by Iran Electronics Industries, a subsidiary of the Iranian Defense Ministry, was delivered to the Space Organization on Saturday after passing the final tests.

US to send depleted-uranium munitions to Ukraine

The Biden administration will for the first time send controversial armor-piercing munitions containing depleted uranium to Ukraine, according to a document seen by Reuters and separately confirmed by two US officials. The rounds, which could help destroy Russian tanks, are part of a new military aid package for Ukraine set to be unveiled in the next week. The munitions can be fired from US Abrams tanks that, according to a person familiar with the matter, are expected to be delivered to Ukraine in the coming weeks. One of the officials said that the coming aid package will be worth between \$240 million and \$375 million depending on what is included. Although Britain sent depleted uranium munitions to Ukraine earlier this year, this would be the first US shipment of the ammunition and will



likely stir controversy. It follows an earlier decision by the Biden administration to provide cluster munitions to Ukraine, despite concerns over the dangers such weapons pose to civilians. The use of depleted uranium munitions has been fiercely debated, with opponents like the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons saying there are dangerous health risks from ingesting or inhaling depleted uranium dust, including

cancers and birth defects. A by-product of uranium enrichment, depleted uranium is used for ammunition because its extreme density gives rounds the ability to easily penetrate armor plating and self-ignite in a searing cloud of dust and metal. The United States used depleted uranium munitions in massive quantities in the 1990 and 2003 Persian Gulf Wars and the NATO bombing of former Yugoslavia in 1999.

Iran takes delivery of YAK-130 training jet



TASNIM - The Iranian Air Force has taken delivery of Russian-made Yak-130 advanced jet trainers. Developed by Russia's Yakovlev and Aermacchi, the Yakovlev Yak-130 is a subsonic two-seat jet trainer and light combat aircraft. The advanced aircraft would allow Iranian military pilots to undergo training in operating the fifth-generation fighter jets, like Sukhoi Su-57.