

### MKO trial launched in Tehran



#### National Desk

The trial of members of the terrorist cult Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) kicked off on Tuesday. A court in the Iranian capital Tehran kicked off the hearing of charges of the crimes committed by 104 members of the terrorist group, Mehr News Agency reported. In this case, the Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization is mentioned as the first defendant. The court has identified Masoud Rajavi as the leader of the group and declared him the second-ranked accused. The Judiciary of Iran has accused Maryam Rajavi as the third-ranked defendant.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani announced on Monday that the legal grounds had been prepared for the trial by the Judiciary.

He said the trial is in line with measures to hold the criminals to account for killing nearly 17,000 Iranians in their terrorist attacks during the past four decades.

Kanaani also said that Iranian officials are following up on the legal complaint filed against assassins of top Iranian anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani in Iraq in 2020.

General Soleimani, the late commander of the Quds Force of IRGC, was assassinated in a US drone attack in January 2020 authorized by the then-president Donald Trump near Baghdad International Airport.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## West uses IAEA as a tool: AEOI

### Eslami rejects Grossi's claim over inspectors



#### National Desk

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said on Tuesday that Western powers use the International Atomic Energy Organization (IAEA) as a tool.

Speaking at the unveiling ceremony of the achievements of his organization in the field of radiopharmaceuticals, Eslami dismissed the International Atomic Energy Agency chief's claims over Tehran's failure to work with the UN nuclear watchdog's inspectors, noting that "We act according to safeguards; when they introduce an inspector, we have the right to accept or reject."

On Monday, the IAEA chief Rafael Grossi alleged that Tehran has failed to answer questions about its past nuclear activities at three sites and has denied access to the sites for the nuclear agency's inspectors.

We do not have any activities other than safeguards and the NPT framework; the IAEA's report is based on JCPOA, Eslami said. But when the parties did

not fulfill their commitments, pressure on Iran is not acceptable, the AEOI head added.

In early October, Iran announced it had barred from future activities in the country a few European IAEA inspectors, who have a history of "harsh and political behavior" against Tehran. Tehran has put the number of the delisted inspectors at "three or four," explaining that the number is a tiny fraction of the total 127 approved inspectors.

Regarding the sale of Iran's heavy water, Eslami said at the unveiling ceremony, "We sell our heavy water officially."

The US bought it once, and today we have requests from other countries, he further noted, stating that our strategy is to process heavy water and use its derivatives.

Regarding nuclear cooperation with Iraq, he noted that the country has reached an agreement with AEOI on radiopharmaceuticals according to which Iranian radiopharmaceuticals are being sent to the neighboring country. "We are ready to extend our ties," Eslami said.

### Tehran, Riyadh to resume direct flights in near future



The head of Iran Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) said that direct scheduled flights between Iran and Saudi Arabia will resume in the near future, adding that the Umrah pilgrimage flights to the Arab country will soon be launched by two domestic airlines.

Speaking at a news conference on Tuesday, Mohammad Mohammadibakhsh said direct scheduled flights between the two countries will be resumed soon, in line with bolstering bilateral ties in the field of aviation, Tasnim news agency reported.

He further said the country's air industry has provided four strategies for the development of the air fleet. Developing the air fleet and establishing consecutive relations between industry, knowledge-based companies and higher education centers seem necessary to present technological achievements and progress, Mohammadibakhsh highlighted. In this regard, the organization has invited prestigious foreign and international companies to organize an air industry show, he added.

Regarding the par-

ticipation of knowledge-based companies in the air industry show, the CAO chief added that 2,000 parts and equipment related to the air industry have been designed by competent domestic knowledge-based companies. Organizing the exhibitions in the field of aviation industry conveys a message to the world that Iran's aviation industry, despite cruel sanctions, has become more developed by relying on domestic capabilities and constructive relations with the academic centers and knowledge-based companies, he added.

### Russia says it's working on major new agreement with Iran



Russian President Vladimir Putin arrives for Russian-Iranian talks in Moscow on December 7, 2023. SPUTNIK

Russia and Iran will speed up work on a "major new interstate agreement," the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

It did not detail the scope of the agreement, which comes amid growing political, trade and military ties between Moscow and Tehran that the United States views with concern, Reuters reported. In a statement, Russia said the two countries' foreign ministers agreed

in a phone call on Monday to speed up work on the agreement, which was at "a high stage of readiness."

Last week President Vladimir Putin held five hours of talks in the Kremlin with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

The Kremlin last month said Russia and Iran were developing their relations, "including in the field of military-technical cooperation," but de-

clined to comment on a suggestion by the White House that Iran may be considering providing Russia with ballistic missiles.

Iranian authorities have said military cooperation with Russia is expanding day by day. Iran said last month it had finalized arrangements for Russia to provide it with Su-35 fighter jets, Mi-28 attack helicopters, and Yak-130 pilot training aircraft.

### Iranian NTBFs export \$1b worth of products



The deputy head of the Innovation and Prosperity Fund of Iran put the

value of products exported by the country's new technology-based firms (NTBFs) at \$1 billion.

Talking to IRNA, Siavash Malekifar pointed to the high capacities and potentials of start-ups in various fields and the number of employees working for Iranian NTBFs at 266,000.

He also highlighted the activities of the fund, saying it was founded in 2010, and currently offers 78 types of high-quality services to applicants. The fund is ready to share experiences with other

countries to provide them with high technical know-how, he added.

The official also said that 41 events have so far been held in the country by the Innovation and Prosperity Fund.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has frequently expressed appreciation for the significant and outstanding role of around 150 domestic knowledge-based companies in the country, vowing that his administration will make its utmost efforts to support the activities of these firms.