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EXCLUSIVE



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Iran denounces US decision to send cluster bombs to Ukraine

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Ministry's spokesman Nasser Kanaani said the US decision to send cluster bombs to Ukraine shows Washington's determination to prolong and complicate the war.

Kanaani made the comments after the US confirmed on Friday it was sending the weapons to Ukraine, with President Joe Biden calling it a "very difficult decision".

"The US decision to send cluster bombs to Ukraine shows Washington's determination to perpetuate and further complicate the war in Ukraine," Kanaani tweeted on Sunday.

"The move is another example of the United States' destabilizing actions," he said, adding that sending such weapons will "indiscriminately contribute to more bloodshed and destruction".

Reports emerging earlier this week said that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was pushing the United States to pro-

vide Kiev with cluster munitions to use against Russian forces.

Iran world's top date exporter with \$500m annually



Sadeq Dehqan Staff Writer

Iran is the world's leading exporter of dates, with the value of its exports amounting to approximately \$500 million, the secretary of the National Date Association of Iran said Sunday.

In an interview with Iran Daily, Meqdad Takallouzadeh elaborated on the destinations of Iran's major date exports, which include India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Qatar, the UAE, Southeast Asian countries,



Central Asian nations, and Western countries such as France and Italy. Turkey is also a major importer of Iranian dates, which it exports after repackaging.

Takallouzadeh noted the global production of dates reaches around 8.4 million tons annually.