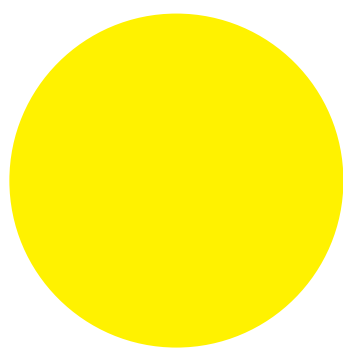


President
calls for
trust, family
cohesion



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Participants pose for a family photo during an international conference on Iranian studies in Tehran, Iran on November 15, 2025. farhang.gov.ir

West targets Iran's high-enriched uranium in IAEA bid

INTERVIEW
EXCLUSIVE



The upcoming meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors, scheduled for November 19-21, carries particular significance for Iran. It will be the first session

held after the expiry of Resolution 2231, meaning the board's agenda will now revolve solely around the Safeguards framework, no longer Iran's commitments under the JCPOA. The meeting also comes at a time when Iran-IAEA cooperation has been strained in the aftermath of the 12-day Iran-Israel conflict in June.

Iran's reduction in engagement with the agency has alarmed Western countries, and reports suggest they intend to put forward a draft resolution against Iran at the upcoming board meeting. Tehran has warned that such a move would constitute yet "another big mistake" and would negatively affect prospects for cooperation with the IAEA.

Rahman Ghahremanpour, a foreign-policy analyst, believes Western pressure is primarily aimed at gaining access to Iran's 400 kilograms of 60% enriched uranium. However, he argues that even if adopted, the resolution will not lead to Iran's case being referred to the UN Security Council.

IRAN DAILY: With Russia and China in support of Tehran, how likely is a Western-sponsored resolution to be adopted?

GHAHREMANPOUR: At the IAEA Board of Governors, decisions are taken by consensus. But if consensus cannot be reached on a proposed resolution, its sponsors can request a vote. In such cases, a resolution is adopted if it secures a majority, even though those passed by consensus carry more weight. When disagreements arise, voting is typically used.

Therefore, even if Russia and China push back, the United States and Europe would likely request a vote. Given the current composition of the board, a majority in favor of the resolution is certainly possible.

If the board adopts a resolution rebuking Iran, what options would Tehran have in response?

According to the information published so far, the resolution proposed by the European troika and the United States would call on Iran to increase its level of cooperation with the agency, grant access to the bombed nuclear facilities, namely Natanz, Fordow and the Isfahan UCF, and fulfil its obligations under the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.

The draft would also state that if Iran does not respond positively, the board will consider further measures at its next quarterly meeting. These could include referring a case of non-compliance to the UN Security Council.

As for Tehran's options, Iran could scale back parts of its extra-safeguards or voluntary cooperation with the IAEA. Although cooperation has already decreased since the June attacks, Iran still maintains some level of engagement. But after the strikes on the three sites, Tehran's leverage in terms of cooperation has largely diminished.

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'Another major mistake': Iran decries West's new anti-Tehran resolution at IAEA



General view of an IAEA meeting
● China's Permanent Mission to UN

International Desk

Iran's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Vienna called the Western countries' plan to introduce a resolution against

Iran at the UN atomic agency's Board of Governors "another major mistake," and a new "deliberate attempt to politicize" the board. In a post on X, the mission said

the United States, together with Britain, France, and Germany are preparing to introduce a resolution against Iran over its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency

(IAEA) at the forthcoming event. "These confrontational tactics are misguided and will yield no advantage whatsoever to them. Should this draft resolution be adopted, it will unavoidably and adversely affect the positive course of cooperation between Iran and the IAEA," the post read. Iran's Ambassador to the IAEA Reza Najafi also reacted to the resolution on Saturday, saying that it will not change Iran's status of safeguards implementation. The upcoming Board of Governors meeting is scheduled to take place from November 19 to 21 at the agency's headquarters in Vienna. Najafi argued that Washington and the three European countries — known as the E3 — are once again attempting to "exploit international mechanisms to impose their illogical and coercive positions on the Iranian

people." "Forcing the [IAEA] Director General to report on the basis of expired UN Security Council resolutions is not only entirely unlawful and unjustified, but in practice, will also add to the existing complexities and deliver yet another blow to diplomacy," the Iranian envoy said. Najafi noted that the push by the US and the E3 is unlikely to change the existing state of safeguards implementation in Iran, which has been affected by the 12-day US-Israeli war of aggression against the Islamic Republic in June. Najafi called on all member states of the BoG to oppose what he described as destructive unilateral actions of the US and its European partners. The Iranian envoy also underscored Iran's right to take necessary actions in retaliation to any unlawful or unwarranted measures.

Meanwhile, Iran's Permanent Ambassador to the UN Amir Saeid Iravani on Friday reaffirmed Iran's long-standing commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), rejecting Western allegations regarding Iran's compliance. Iravani said the United States and the European trio had repeatedly echoed "Israeli regime fabrications" concerning Iran's peaceful nuclear energy program, while ignoring Israel's own nuclear arsenal and refusal to submit to international oversight. He stressed that, in addition to fully complying with the NPT and its safeguards obligations, Iran has never violated the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), a 2015 nuclear agreement between the Islamic Republic and world powers, including the United States and the E3.

Iran warns of US escalation fallout in Caribbean

Maduro urges Trump to avoid Afghanistan-style 'forever war'



The Navy warship USS Sampson docked at the Amador International Cruise Terminal in Panama City in September.
● MARTIN BERNETTI/GETTY IMAGES

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry's spokesman Esmail Baqaei warned of the consequences of the recent US military buildup in the Caribbean region and Latin America for the international peace and security. In a statement on Saturday, Baqaei called for respect for Venezuela's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, saying that the US threats to use force against Venezuela's legally elected government are a blatant violation of international law. He also noted that such actions constitute a serious breach of the principles of the UN Charter. Since August, the US has deployed a fleet of vessels and thousands of troops to the Caribbean under the pretext of combating Latin American drug cartels. The US says it has carried out at

least 20 strikes against alleged drug trafficking vessels in the Caribbean and the Pacific, killing 80 people. Baqaei slammed US attacks as instances of unlawful and extrajudicial killings. The spokesman underlined the need to end the misuse of counter-narcotics operations as a pretext for violating Venezuela's sovereignty and territorial integrity. There are reports that US plans for military action against Venezuela.

Deliberations at White House US President Donald Trump said Friday night that he has "sort of made up my mind" about how he will proceed with the possibility of military action in Venezuela, following a second consecutive day of deliberations at the White House that included top national security advisers, the Washington Post reported. The comments came as US forces in the region awaited possible attack

orders, according to people familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity. Joining Trump in deliberations on Friday were Vice President JD Vance, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Dan Caine, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller. Any strike on Venezuelan territory would upend Trump's frequent promises of avoiding new conflicts and betray promises made to Congress in recent weeks that no active preparations were underway for such an attack.

Afghanistan-style 'forever war'

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro urged Donald Trump not to lead the US into an Afghanistan-style "forever war." Speaking to CNN outside the Miraflores presidential palace in Venezuela's capital, Caracas, Maduro called on Trump to make peace, not war, after the world's largest aircraft carrier, USS Gerald R Ford, arrived in the region. "No more forever wars. No more unjust wars. No more Libya. No more Afghanistan. Long live peace," Maduro, 62, declared late on Thursday.

IRGC impounds 'unauthorized cargo' tanker off southern coast



Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker Talara

National Desk

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced in a statement on Saturday that its forces had seized an oil tanker in the Persian Gulf for carrying "unauthorized cargo." "Yesterday morning at 7:30, after a judicial authority ordered the seizure of the cargo of an oil tanker with the trade name Talara and the flag of the Marshall Islands, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps rapid reaction units of the naval forces monitored its movements and intercepted and seized it," the statement said. "The tanker was found to be in violation of the law by carrying unauthorized cargo," the statement continued, adding that it "was carrying 30,000 tons of petrochemical cargo and was heading to Singapore." The IRGC said the "operation was carried out in line with legal duties and for the protection of the national interests and resources of the

Islamic Republic of Iran." The vessel had departed from Ajman in the United Arab Emirates and was heading south through the Strait of Hormuz when it was approached by three small boats, after which it made a "sudden course deviation," maritime security company Ambrey said. The US Navy had earlier said it was "actively monitoring the situation." "Commercial vessels are entitled to largely unimpeded rights of navigation and commerce on the high seas," said the US 5th Fleet, which patrols the region. The Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway for global oil and liquefied natural gas, has previously been the scene of similar incidents. In May 2022, IRGC forces seized two Greek tankers and held them until November of that year for violations. They also took the Portuguese-flagged cargo ship MSC Aries in the Strait of Hormuz in April 2024.

West targets Iran's ...

At present, Iran's most important bargaining tool is providing or withholding access to the 400-plus kilograms of 60% enriched uranium reportedly buried under rubble. The agency, and specifically the United States, Europe, and of course Israel, place great importance on clarifying the fate of this material. In fact, the main goal of the resolution is to push Iran to cooperate on granting access to this highly enriched uranium.

Can Russia and China actually prevent possible Western measures against Iran, or is their support largely symbolic?

What Russia and China can realistically do is prevent a resolution from being adopted by consensus. Also, they maintain limited nuclear cooperation with Iran, for example, Russia's work on the Bushehr power plant, which is exempt from sanctions and acceptable to the agency. However, within the Board of Governors,

Moscow and Beijing's hands are more tied than in the UN Security Council. The board does not grant veto power to the five permanent Security Council members or to NPT nuclear-weapon states. Compared with the snapback mechanism, their ability to hold off US initiatives is therefore more limited. They could, for instance, propose a counter-resolution or rally Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) states to their side. But these are political and diplomatic steps rather than concrete mechanisms for blocking Western action. Based on past experience, China and Russia cannot prevent a resolution from passing if it goes to a vote.

Given Iran's coordination meetings with Russia, China, and the IAEA director general, can it be said that Tehran is seeking to build a support bloc against Western pressure? How effective could this approach be? Yes, Iran is indeed trying to build up a

support bloc. In previous years as well, Tehran used the Non-Aligned Movement and countries of the Global South to speak out in both the board and the Security Council and to push back against pressure. But the reality is that the number and weight of the opposing bloc, the United States and Europe, remain greater. As the snapback episode demonstrated, their influence in both the Security Council and the IAEA Board of Governors is stronger. What Iran can do is call into question the credibility of such resolutions. However, as mentioned earlier, even if adopted, this resolution is unlikely to lead to Iran's file being referred to the Security Council. For that reason, Tehran is unlikely to show a sharp reaction. At the same time, Iran may still refuse to grant access to the 60% enriched uranium, postponing such access until further agreements are reached with the United States, Europe, and the agency.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON



Economy official says crypto-based foreign investment to be authorized



Economy Desk

Foreign investment in Iran can be carried out through cryptocurrency, a senior Economy Ministry official said, citing legislation that allows both financing and foreign direct investment (FDI) to be executed using digital assets. Majid Karimi-Rizi, head of the National Financing Center at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance told ILNA that a new financing tool under the Production and Infrastructure Financing Law explicitly permits the registration of foreign capital in the form of cryptocurrency. He said the related by-

law must be drafted by the National Financing Council and approved by the government. Karimi-Rizi said the ministry had begun work on the regulation, but progress had stopped because the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has raised concerns. The bank, he noted, has already issued a crypto brokerage directive and has certain institutions and requirements in mind. "We should use this existing capacity and issue the necessary permits," he said. He added that Iran could apply the same model used for gold bullion imports, which currently allows foreign

investors to bring capital into the country in physical gold. Under a newly approved decision by the Foreign Investment Board, investors can import gold, then offer it on the Iran Mercantile Exchange or the Foreign Exchange and Gold Center. The move is expected to preserve asset value while enabling investors to enter production and export-oriented sectors. "The same method can be applied to cryptocurrency, enabling investors to transfer their capital into Iran in the form of digital assets," the official said. Karimi-Rizi said the legal provision applies

primarily to FDI projects, defined as investments made by a company or individual in another country, though the law also permits financing through cryptocurrency. Asked whether the law allows the use of all cryptocurrencies for investment and financing, he said rules must be established to define the limits. "Restrictions have to be considered in the regulatory framework; for example, measures are needed to ensure the security of Tether is not compromised. The Central Bank is expected to set these rules and act accordingly," he said.

Minister: Persian Gulf water transfer to Tehran 'very expensive' but necessary



Economy Desk

Transferring water from the Persian Gulf to Tehran is extremely costly and economically unviable, Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said in an exclusive interview with IRNA, adding, however, it may be necessary when human lives are at stake. Responding to questions about recent government statements that the project is Tehran's only reliable water source, Aliabadi said producing large volumes of freshwater along the Persian Gulf coast is a major priority for the Ministry of Energy. He noted that massive desalination plants are under construction in Chabahar, Bandar Abbas, and Khuzestan, with efforts underway to improve economic efficiency and attract private investment. "If water from southern regions is supplied this way, it could also support population settlement in southern provinces, shifting some of the demographic load away from Tehran," he said. Aliabadi added

that water currently transferred from upstream regions could instead be used to supply Tehran and northern areas, though all such plans require careful expert analysis. "Transporting water from the Persian Gulf to Tehran is very expensive and not cost-effective, but when human lives are at stake, we will do whatever is necessary," he said. "However, this water should not be used for agriculture or non-essential purposes." Aliabadi stressed that Tehran's water status is so critical that all possible measures must be considered, provided they are economically feasible. "Sometimes water is used to produce agricultural products that are not economically viable — it would be better not to produce or export those items, as the revenue is far lower than the costs," he said. The country has embarked on large-scale transfers of desalinated water from the Oman Sea and the Persian Gulf to eastern and southern region, part of a nationwide program launched in 2021 that includes five desalinated seawater transfer lines designed to ease water shortages. On Thursday, Aliabadi said the government is accelerating work on a large-scale seawater desalination program with a capacity of two billion cubic meters, describing the initiative as essential to coping with one of Iran's harshest multi-year droughts.

Afghanistan shifts transit to Iran after Pakistan border clashes

Landlocked Afghanistan is leaning more heavily on trade routes through Iran and Central Asia to reduce dependence on Pakistan, development officials highlighted amid rising tensions between the two neighbors and the weeks-long closure of their border. Reuters wrote in a brief report that Afghanistan's reliance on Pakistan's ports has long given Islamabad leverage to press Kabul over Pakistani militants sheltering across the border. But, it added, Afghanistan is increasingly making use of Iran's concessions to shift freight to its Indian-backed port of Chabahar, bypassing Pakistan and avoiding recurring border and transit disruptions. "In the past six months, our trade with Iran has reached \$1.6 billion, higher than the \$1.1 billion exchanged with Pakistan," Abdul Salam Jawad Akhundzada, a spokesman for the Commerce Ministry, told Reuters. "The facilities at Chabahar have reduced delays and given traders confidence that shipments will not stop when borders close." Traders have three months to settle contracts in Pakistan and shift to other routes, said Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, Afghanistan's deputy prime minister for economic affairs. Accusing Islamabad of using



A view of the Dowqarun border crossing between Iran and Afghanistan, in Taybad, Khorasan Razavi Province. ● MAJID ASGARIPOUR/WANA via REUTERS

"commercial and humanitarian matters as political leverage," he said Afghanistan would not mediate disputes after the deadline and ordered ministries to stop clearing Pakistani medicines, citing "low-quality" imports. The biggest shift is to Chabahar, used since 2017 under a transit pact with Iran and India. Afghan officials say incentives from tariff cuts and discounted storage to faster handling are drawing more cargo south. Iran has installed updated equipment and X-ray scanners, while offering Afghan cargo a 30% cut in port tariffs, 75% off storage fees and 55% off docking charges, said Akhundzada, the Commerce Ministry spokesman.

Pakistan sees no harm from Afghan decision Afghanistan's decision would cause no economic harm to Pakistan, Defense Minister Khawaja Asif told Geo News. "Afghanistan can trade through any port or country," he said. However, Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan told Reuters, "We cannot compromise on security." India has stepped up engagement with Afghanistan's ruling Taliban, hosting acting foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi and broadening humanitarian assistance. The country runs key terminals at Iran's southeastern port of Chabahar, which it sees as a strategic link to Afghanistan and Central Asia. In October, the United States

gave New Delhi a six-month sanctions waiver to keep running the port. Afghanistan has boosted shipments through Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, routes it says are growing faster than Pakistan's. As advantages Akhundzada cited new transit deals, lower border costs and offices at Milak and Zahedan, Iran's main border crossing points for Afghan trade. But Pakistan is still the fastest route to the sea, with trucks reaching its southern port of Karachi in three days. Its exports to Afghanistan neared \$1.5 billion in 2024. Islamabad says closures curb militant movement; Kabul denies providing safe haven to the militants.

Iran maps key waters as annual nautical chart drawing hits 120,000

Economy Desk

Iran makes about 120,000 specialized nautical charts each year and has completed extensive environmental, hydrologic and bathymetric studies in its three main marine domains, the head of the National Cartographic Center (NCC) said on Saturday. Speaking at a press briefing on the sidelines of the 5th Iran Geo International Exhibition, Eskandar Seydaei said the NCC's focus in coastal and littoral provinces was now the continuous monitoring of national water bodies, including the Persian Gulf, the

Sea of Oman and the Caspian Sea, IRNA reported. Seydaei said hydrographic services for international vessels were once provided exclusively by several European countries, including the United Kingdom, but that Iran could now deliver such services independently and domestically. "Findings, including alerts and scientific evidence, are shared annually with relevant government bodies," he added. According to the official, scientific teams stationed in coastal provinces also publish field-based research through reports, articles, books and

scientific infographics, aimed at improving decision-making for the sustainable management of the country's water resources. "Iran maintains an active presence in global scientific forums, and the NCC is a member of United Nations expert committees on data-driven governance," Seydaei said. He noted that during a recent UN meeting in South Korea, Iran presented its achievements and drew on international experience. The official highlighted the work of colleagues in the Armed Forces Geographical Organization, noting that teams

using aerial, terrestrial and marine capabilities produce accurate and transparent datasets to support informed decision-making by authorities. The Iran Geo International Exhibition opened on Thursday and runs through Sunday afternoon with universities, research institutes and private companies taking part. "This year, two joint unveilings of recent research projects will be carried out by the National Cartographic Center and the Armed Forces Geographical Organization," he said. Geospatial data plays a critical role across political, cultural, economic and



security domains, from crisis management to long-term development policy.

From Iraq to Gaza

Toxic legacy of 20 years of conflict



By Zohreh Qanadi
Staff writer

WEBINAR

munitions by US forces in several conflict zones across the Middle East, raising growing concerns about long-term environmental contamination and public health risks.

As reports of environmental contamination in Gaza mount since Israeli bombardment started in October 2023, scientists are once again drawing attention to the lasting ecological and health consequences of war-related pollution in the region — including the use of depleted uranium in past conflicts.

Amid these growing concerns, Dr. Mozghan Savabieasfahani, an environmental toxicologist based in Michigan, United States, participated in a webinar titled “One Health for Palestine Solidarity,” organized by the Irish Veterinary Professionals for Palestine (IVPPP) to discuss her two decades of research on the environmental and public health impacts of war-related contamination across the region. The advocate for justice in Palestine has been studying these effects since the early bombings of Iraq in 2004.

She recalls following the news of the bombing of Falluja and Baghdad and how explosions lit up the Iraqi cities during those attacks. The memory left her with a deep sense of distress over the harm inflicted on both people and the environment. She added that she experienced the same distress every day while observing the bombardments in Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria.

Below is an excerpt of her remarks on war contamination, environmental and public health impacts, and related studies she has conducted over the years at the webinar.

Reports and scientific assessments over the past two decades have documented the use of depleted uranium (DU)

munitions by US forces in several conflict zones across the Middle East, raising growing concerns about long-term environmental contamination and public health risks.

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Mozghan Savabieasfahani



In Iraq, we continue to see rising rates of cancer and congenital anomalies decades after the bombings ended. Historic data from the Balkans and Vietnam, which were heavily bombed by NATO and the United States, show a similar pattern: sustained increases in cancers and birth defects over time.

In the language of international law and toxicology, this is referred to as “ecocide” — the destruction of the natural environment through deliberate action or severe negligence.

Without a doubt, the actions of Israel and the United States have been intentional and have resulted in the destruction of Gaza on an industrial scale. Comparable devastation was inflicted on Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans, and Vietnam, to name only a few.

In Gaza, a genocide and an ecocide are occurring hand in hand. Since October 2023, Israel has dropped an estimated 100,000 tons of bombs and explosives on a territory comparable in size to the city of Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

For comparison, during his eight years in office, former US president Obama, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, authorized the use of roughly the same quantity of bombs and explosives across Pakistan, Libya, Yemen, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria. The total area impacted in those cases was approximately 12,000 times larger than Gaza. The contrast is meant to be staggering: even the extensive bombing campaigns carried out across Western Asia during that period pale in comparison to the concentrated scale of destruction inflicted on Gaza.

While Gaza remains the most heavily targeted, Lebanon, Yemen, and Syria have also continued to face routine aerial bombardments. The same categories of weapons deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan two decades ago are now being used in Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen, and Syria.

This continuity is well documented: in 2023, 69 percent of Israel’s arms imports came from the United States, according to data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Hussain, 2024; SIPRI).

In both Lebanon and Palestine, Israel has used highly destructive US-made Mark-84 bombs (2000-pound bombs) that are air-dropped and have the capacity to kill or cause severe injuries up to hundreds of meters from the bomb site (Kunichoff et al., 2024). Hundreds or even thousands of the same Mark-84 bombs (or 2000 lb. bombs) were dropped on Iraqi and Afghan cities in the early 2000s (Zenko and Wilson, 2017; Zenko, 2016).

There is little doubt that the long-term impact of environmental contamination from war on the public in Gaza and Lebanon will likely mirror those documented elsewhere.

The Palestinian Environmental Quality Authority indicates that in one year, Israel’s military has dropped over 85,000 tons of bombs on the Gaza Strip, exceeding the total explosives used in World War II (Middle East Monitor, 2024). Six months ago (April 2025), Dr. Paul Rogers from the University of Bradford said in an interview that “if you look at the tonnage of weapons dropped, mainly bombs but also missiles and tens of thousands of

artillery shells, you see that Israel has dropped the equivalent of six Hiroshima bombs on Gaza.” So far, it is clear that Israel, with the full support of Western democracies, is committing an act of genocide alongside an act of ecocide, murdering hundreds of thousands and destroying the natural environment on a massive scale.

What is depleted uranium, why is it in news?

Depleted uranium (DU) is a byproduct of uranium enrichment. Its isotopic composition is roughly 99.8% Uranium-238 (U-238), 0.2% Uranium-235 (U-235), and about 0.0006% Uranium-234 (U-234). U-238 is left behind when natural uranium is processed to increase the proportion of U-235. Uranium enriched in U-235 is used as fuel in nuclear reactors and, at higher enrichment levels, in the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

The United States has admitted to having used DU in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria in the early 2000s — after previously denying it. Israel has never admitted to any use. In September 2025, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) stated in a secret report to its members that they had found traces of DU in Syria on a site bombed by Israel in 2007.

Finding evidence of DU in Western Asia is extremely difficult. Since June 2025, we have been awaiting a laboratory report to confirm Israel’s use of DU in Lebanon.

While there is considerable background noise in the literature regarding DU and



An aerial drone view shows three Israeli military vehicles driving past farms desolated by Israel in North Gaza.
● SHUTTERSTOCK



In addition to bombings, since 2014, Israel has been using aerial crop-duster planes to spray Gaza with toxic, crop-killing herbicides such as Glyphosate (Roundup), Oxyfluorfen (Oxygal), and Diuron (Diurex). All these compounds are carcinogens and endocrine-disrupting chemicals that primarily affect the nervous and reproductive systems. The fact that these herbicides and pollutants from bombs, missiles, and artillery eventually end up in water supplies and food has been acknowledged by many scientists, including the UN Environment Programme, which has expressed serious concern.



The screenshot from a video captured by Gazan farmers shows an Israeli crop-duster plane spraying their side of the border with toxic, crop-killing herbicides to be blown by the wind into the Gaza Strip on January 14, 2020.
● adalah.org

its impact on human health, a 2005 literature review by scientists from the University of Massachusetts School of Public Health and Tufts University concluded, “In aggregate, the human epidemiological evidence is consistent with increased risk of birth defects in offspring of persons exposed to DU.” This conclusion was reached after reviewing hundreds of articles on uranium toxicity. Anyone questioning the toxicity of DU should refer to Rita Hindin and her co-authors. Depleted uranium emits ionizing radiation, which is high-energy radiation capable of removing electrons from atoms and causing damage to living tissue. DU can induce DNA damage through both its radioactive properties and chemical toxicity. This damage includes DNA strand breaks and oxidative DNA lesions, which occur due to an increase in reactive oxygen species (ROS) in cells exposed to DU.

Both the radiation and chemical aspects of DU contribute to this damage, with the effects of alpha particle irradiation possibly enhancing the chemical damage.

DU has a half-life of 4.4 billion years. Consider the environmental impact of dropping 100,000 tons of bombs containing not only toxic metals — including neurotoxic metals like mercury and lead — but also uranium compounds that can persist in the environment for billions of years.

This is the situation we are facing in Gaza and across Western Asia, which have been targeted by US and Israeli attacks. The question is: what can be done at a time when the United States and its Western allies lavish Israel with massive financial handouts and military contracts, funneling billions into a society organized around genocide and ethnic cleansing in Western Asia?

US and European support for Israel during the Gaza genocide:

● **US aid to Israel:** \$34 billion (according to the Quincy Institute)

● **Germany:** \$2.5 billion in handouts, in addition to billions of dollars’ worth of military-related business with Israel (last year alone: \$4 billion)

● **The UK:** the country does not appear to provide direct financial aid to Israel, but hundreds of UK companies engage in military-related business with Israel. It is fair to say that the Israeli military could not function without close cooperation with the UK weapons industry. What is to be done? Putting pressure on these unelected governments remains the only viable approach.

As an example, our team submitted



Early Day Motions to the British Parliament in 2016, 2017, and 2018. These motions were signed by close to 100 UK parliamentarians. Here is the text of one of these Motions: “That this House recognizes the problem of toxic contamination of war zones, particularly in Iraq, notes the research presented in March 2018 by Dr. Mozghan Savabieasfahani at the European Environment Foundation expresses concern at reports of uranium and thorium contamination in the tissues of children living near the US military base in the ancient city of Ur [a major Sumerian city-state in ancient Mesopotamia, located at the site of modern Tell el-Muqay-

yar in Dhi Qar Governorate, southern Iraq], with those children being seven times more likely to have birth defects; [and] further notes a 2015 resolution by the American Public Health Association stating that parties involved in military activities have a post-conflict responsibility to decontaminate polluted areas; and calls on the Government to work with the US Administration to clean up areas polluted by allied military forces and assist the Iraqi people with remedial health care.” Basically, this demands that those who have committed ecocides in our region take responsibility for cleaning them up. Many then ask whether it is possible to

clean up environmental pollution of this scale. My answer is that we certainly can, if, as a society, we refuse to spend our resources on war and genocide and, instead, invest those billions of dollars each year in environmental restoration, remediation, and cleanup. The technology for such large-scale cleanup certainly exists; what we need is the public will to implement it. It is worth mentioning that, in addition to bombings, Israel has on several occasions been using aerial crop-duster planes to spray Gaza with toxic, crop-killing herbicides such as Glyphosate (Roundup), Oxyfluorfen (Oxygal), and Diuron (Diurex). Between 2018 and 2020, Bayer, the pro-

ducer of Roundup, paid \$11 billion in lawsuits related to its use in the United States. All these compounds are carcinogens and endocrine-disrupting chemicals that primarily affect the nervous and reproductive systems. The fact that these herbicides and pollutants from bombs, missiles, and artillery eventually end up in water supplies and food has been acknowledged by many scientists, including the UN Environment Programme, which has expressed serious concern. Reports of crop and human health damage have been emerging since 2020 via Euro-Med Rights, an organization not funded by any US entity.

Overall, from the perspective of an environmental toxicologist, these assaults on Palestinians and their lands can be summarized as ecocide. These pollutants individually increase the risk of cancer and reproductive damage in human populations, and collectively, their damage could be greatly magnified. We do not know how many tons of these herbicides Israel has dropped on Gaza. However, if the United States’ spraying of Agent Orange in Vietnam is any guide, it is likely to have been a significant amount. This is particularly concerning given that all these herbicides are supplied to Israel by the United States.

Depleted uranium forgotten legacy of Kosovo War

By Vjosa Cermini
Reporter
PERSPECTIVE

“I can vividly remember the last day,” said Emerico Maria Laccetti, former colonel of the military division of the Italian Red Cross. During the Kosovo War in 1999, he was stationed in Albania, just a few hundred meters from the border with Kosovo. He was the commander of a field hospital for refugees from the province, which at the time belonged to Serbia. “We stood on containers and watched the bombings,” he said. “It was like a perverse New Year’s Eve fireworks display. Even at a distance, you could feel the air pressure, the shock waves going through your body. But no, we were not told about the specific dangers of the weapons being used.” In March 1999, NATO’s Operation Allied Force intervened in the conflict between the Serbian state and the Albanian majority population in Kosovo, which had been simmering for years. Over 78 days, the alliance flew missions with up to 1,000 aircraft against Serbian security forces. According to official figures, over 28,000 explosive devices were dropped, including controversial uranium ammunition, which is suspected of causing cancer. This ammunition contained a core of depleted uranium (DU), with high explosive power due to its high density, three times denser than lead. It is therefore used primarily against tanks and armored targets. Its impact can produce fine uranium dust, which continues to emit radiation and can cause health problems, for example, if it is inhaled.

NATO rejects cancer accusations
In response to questions about the health risks posed by DU ammunition, NATO only gave a written statement. “We take health and environmental issues very seriously,” it said. In 2001, a committee on DU concluded that the use of DU ammunition in Kosovo “did not cause any lasting health risk to the population,” citing independent findings. NATO refers to UN reports from 2014. “This is scientific evidence; it was reliable, and we stand by it,” the military alliance said in a statement.



However, this contradicts the rulings of Italian courts on lawsuits filed by approximately 500 Kosovo War veterans who developed cancer after coming into contact with depleted uranium ammunition. Laccetti says he was aware that his field hospital in Morina, Albania, was located in a “hot zone,” close to an active conflict, during the NATO bombings — something that would always entail risk. “What we were never told, however, was that certain types of ammunition can pose long-term danger, even if you are not directly hit — for example, from an unexploded ordnance nearby or from substances used in ammunition production.”

Triggering long-term illness
When Laccetti returned home in July 1999, he experienced breathing difficulties and went to the hospital to be examined. “The medical staff suddenly became very flustered,” he recalled. Finally, a doctor showed him the image: “There was something in my lung measuring 24-by-12-by-14 centimeters (9.4-by-4.7-by-5.5 inches).” The then 36-year-old was diagnosed with a very aggressive malignant tumor. Laccetti was initially treated successfully, but in 2008, he fell ill with cancer again. The results of the tissue examination were alarming. “They found an extraordinary amount of perfectly round ceramic particles — as if I had been standing in a blast furnace.” The conclusion was clear: “These parti-

cles had become lodged in my body over many years and could cause new damage through migration or inflammation.”

Successful lawsuits in Italy
Laccetti learned of other soldiers of the same age who had been stationed nearby and received similar diagnoses. He contacted lawyer Angelo Tartaglia, who represented those affected. Approximately 500 military personnel successfully sued the state of Italy. Among them was Laccetti, whom a court in Rome certified in 2009 as a victim because he had fulfilled his military duties. The court awarded him compensation. After the Kosovo War, a commission of the Italian Ministry of Defense investigated a possible link between DU exposure and cancer. It found a statistically significant increase in the incidence of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, a group of blood cancers, among affected soldiers. However, other studies, such as a WHO report from the same year, found no clear evidence of a direct link between DU and individual cases of disease.

Difficult to prove a cancer link
For Wim Zwijnenburg, a member of the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons (ICBUW), the case is clear-cut. “The judge recognized that the Italian state had a duty of care, which is why compensation was awarded,” explained Zwijnenburg, who has been investigating the use and consequences of DU for over

16 years. “My conclusion is it is extremely difficult to make a definitive statement,” he admits, because depleted uranium only has an effect when it enters the body, usually in the form of fine dust particles that are inhaled. “But the exact amount that people actually absorb has never been properly measured. There are very few reliable long-term studies.” The causes of cancer are often difficult to pinpoint. Unhealthy lifestyles, environmental influences, genetic predisposition, and many other factors contribute to the number of cases. “It’s difficult to prove,” says Zwijnenburg. “Have those affected ever touched a DU grenade or been near a contaminated tank? Uranium can take a year to penetrate the skin. Doctors cannot make any claims if it is not completely clear. People are looking for a clear cause, but the reality is far more complex.”

Did NATO do enough to clean up Kosovo?

In 2002, the United Nations passed a resolution obliging countries to inform affected states after the use of uranium ammunition and to assist in the cleanup of contaminated areas. It is unclear to what extent NATO fulfilled this responsibility in Kosovo — the NATO peacekeeping force KFOR, which has been stationed there since the end of the fighting to secure peace, does not provide any information. Visits to the sites show that the population in many regions of Kosovo is unaware of the potential risks, and decontamination measures have not been carried out, except at one site in the west of the country, in the village of Lugburnari near Gjakova. “NATO could be criticized for using these weapons,” said expert Wim Zwijnenburg, “but even more so for not carrying out clean-up operations after the war. There are clear protection protocols for soldiers — but for civilians? Nothing. It is unacceptable to use toxic ammunition and then simply turn away.” Officially, the material that DU ammunition is made of is classified as low- to medium-level radioactive waste. But, Zwijnenburg said, “In humid climates such as the Balkans, shells can corrode and disintegrate, leaving behind dangerous residues.” The risk doesn’t fade with time either, as the half-life of uranium is almost infinite. For Zwijnenburg, this is evidence of the states’ double standards. “If such a grenade were to be found in a Dutch park, the area would be cordoned off. Special forces in protective suits would place the grenade in a lead container and store it safely.” So when it comes to their own population, risks are taken extremely seriously — but elsewhere, they are not. Laccetti is disappointed that his case and those of many other veterans have not brought about any fundamental changes. “Depleted uranium ammunition is still legal. We have tried in every conceivable way to ban it, like cluster munitions or anti-personnel mines,” he said. “We have failed.”

The article first appeared in German on Deutsche Welle.



An American fighter jet is being armed with bombs containing depleted uranium aboard the USS Kearsarge in the Adriatic Sea off the coast of Albania on March 7, 1999. The bombs were later used in Kosovo.
● MIKE NELSON/DPA

There was a very aggressive malignant tumor in my lung measuring 24-by-12-by-14 centimeters (9.4-by-4.7-by-5.5 inches). Years later, in 2008, they also found an extraordinary amount of perfectly round ceramic particles — as if I had been standing in a blast furnace. These particles had become lodged in my body over many years and could cause new damage through migration or inflammation.

The photo shows a site in the village of Pllenaje in Kosovo where an American project is supposedly underway to clean up areas contaminated after the use of depleted uranium ammunition by NATO in 1999.
● VJOSA CERKINI/DW

Pragmatism the new norm: Solid defense defines Iran's World Cup approach



By Amirhadi
Arsalanpour
Staff writer

Iranian fans were perhaps treated to a glimpse of what to expect from their national team at next summer's World Cup when Team Melli played to a goalless stalemate against Cape Verde on Thursday before winning the shootout to advance to the Al Ain International Cup final.

While Iran barely created a clear-cut chance throughout the 90 minutes, head coach Amir Qalenoei praised his team's disciplined defensive display against one of Africa's World Cup representatives — a welcome sign for a side that has looked vulnerable even against Asian minnows such as North Korea, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Afghanistan over the past couple of years.

"Results are the last thing that matter in friendly matches, as they are all about identifying your strengths and weaknesses. Our main objective in this match was to work on our defensive shape, and I think we managed to do that effectively," the Iranian coach said after the game.

"Many critics are just waiting for us to drop a game so they can attack us, but for me, the real victory was the significant improvement in our defensive structure."

A solid backline must be the top priority for a team of Iran's caliber when facing elite opponents at the global showpiece — just as it was under former coach Carlos Queiroz, most notably at the 2018 World Cup, where his side conceded only two goals



Iranian midfielder Saeid Ezzatollahi (6) goes up for a header during a friendly game against Cape Verde in Al Ain, UAE, on November 13, 2025.
● VARZESH3

"Iran adopted a largely reactive approach, opting to give up possession and play on the break," former Iran international center-back Mohammad Nosrati said of Thursday's match.

"The players sat deep and ceded space as part of the new strategy, though I believe Cape Verde's superior ball retention also influenced the flow of the game. For most of the match, the African side controlled the tempo and dictated possession, but still struggled to create meaningful chances," Nosrati added.

The Iranian team that executed this same style so effectively under Queiroz was younger and fitter, but the current squad is aging and may lack the sharpness required for three high-intensity group-stage matches at the World Cup. That may leave Qalenoei with no choice but to inject fresh blood into his roster. The Iranian Pro League will continue without pause over the next four months, providing an excellent opportunity to assess a new generation of players ahead of the next international break in March.

Iran's transformation for the World Cup is underway, and December's draw will play a pivotal role in shaping the team's approach to the finals.

For now, what is clear is that the technical staff has set aside past idealism and is moving decisively toward pragmatism.

against Morocco, Spain, and Portugal.

Long associated with an attacking style during his club career, Qalenoei — who vowed to change Iran's "decade-long mindset" under his Portuguese predecessor upon taking charge in 2023 — now appears to have come to terms with the realities of top-tier international football.

New Italian assistant Antonio Gagliardi, who was part of Roberto Mancini's coaching staff during Italy's Euro 2020 triumph, sat on Iran's bench for the first time against Cape Verde, and he seems to have quickly contributed to Iran's tactical shift.

Instead of seeking high possession and applying constant

pressure, Iran ceded the ball to their African opponents and, by closing down spaces, effectively controlled the match from deeper positions, looking to create chances through swift counter-attacks.

It was a game plan that served the national team well and now appears to be the new norm for Team Melli, with the World Cup

less than seven months away.

This tactical shift also meant a departure from Qalenoei's usual demand for his fullbacks to constantly join the attack. Their roles changed; the primary responsibility of the wingers and defensive midfielders was now to provide cover and maintain defensive solidity.

Riyadh 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games: Iranians bag four muaythai silvers



Iran's Fereshteh Hassanzadeh is seen in action in the women's muaythai 45-50kg category at the Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on November 14, 2025.
● IRNA

Sports Desk

On the seventh day of the Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh, Iranians collected four silver medals in muaythai on Friday.

A third silver medal for Iranian women came in the 60-65kg category, where Fati-meh Hosseinkhani fell 30-27 to Türkiye's Bediha Tacyildiz Sahin in the final.

In the men's competition,

Iran's Majid Hashembeigi missed out on victory in his last international outing, suffering a 30-26 setback against Iraq's Mustafa Al-Tekreeti in the 75-80kg final.

Elsewhere in the Games on Thursday, the Iranian men's handball team got off to a losing start, as Rafael Guijo-sa's side was beaten 39-23 by Asian powerhouse Qatar in Group A.

Ahmad Madadi and Abdulraz-

zaq Murad topped the scoring chart for Qatar with six goals apiece, while Reza Shojaei also scored six times for Iran. Iran will resume action against the Maldives today, before taking on the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday.

In the women's division, however, Iran bounced back from a first-day defeat against Türkiye to beat Guinea 23-21 in Group A on Saturday, securing a place in the semifinals.

Asia Oceania Wheelchair Basketball Championships: Iran settles for men's bronze, misses out on world berth

Sports Desk

Iranian men's wheelchair basketball team defeated South Korea 57-44 to settle for a third-place finish at the IWBF Asia Oceania Championships in Bangkok, Thailand.

Mahdi Abbasi contributed with 18 points and 14 rebounds for Iran, followed by Amirreza Ahmadi, who finished on 14 points, while South Korean Seung Hyun Cho chipped in a game-high 19 points.

The bronze medal secured Iran's place at the 2026 Asian Para Games, but it was not enough for Reza Soltani's men to qualify for next year's World Championships, as the Ottawa Para Games was awarded only to the two finalists, Australia and Japan.

Runner-up to Australia in the previous edition, Iran began its campaign with victory over China in the Division A league phase,



● IWBF

but suffered back-to-back defeats against Japan and Australia, before bouncing back to beat South Korea and Thailand for a place in the quarterfinals.

A second victory over China saw Iran progress to the semifinals, where a second setback against

Japan ended the team's bid for a first Asian crown in 20 years.

In the women's competition, Iran finished sixth — courtesy of victories over Laos, the Philippines, and India, plus losses to Cambodia and the host — to qualify for the Asian Para Games.

Iranian women to play Uzbekistan in friendly double-header

Sports Desk

Iranian women's national team will face Uzbekistan in a friendly double-header in Tashkent at the upcoming international break,

the Iranian Football Federation announced on Saturday.

The two sides will square off on November 29, before meeting again three days later.

The games will be part of both

side's preparation for next year's AFC Women's Asia Cup, starting March 1 in Australia.

Iran is joined by the host country, South Korea, and the Philippines in Group A of the competition.

Aras Free Trade Zone secures key membership in UN Tourism

Iranica Desk

At the 26th Session of the UN Tourism General Assembly held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the Aras Free Trade Zone Organization has been officially accepted as an Affiliate Member of this prestigious international body. Hadi Moqadamzadeh, Chairman of the Board and Director General of the Aras Free Trade Zone Organization, described the achievement as a pivotal milestone in showcasing Iran's tourism potential on the global stage, chn.ir reported.

"With this approval, the Aras Free Trade Zone joins the ranks of the world's most respected tourism institutions as a destination management organization within the Affiliate Members category," he said. "This membership enables us to formally collaborate with UN Tourism, the highest in-

ternational authority in the tourism sector." Moqadamzadeh highlighted that UN Tourism plays a central role in elevating tourism standards and services, particularly in developing countries. He noted that the membership grants access to the latest scientific advancements, innovations, and global best practices in strategic planning, international marketing, workforce training, and promotional activities.

He also pointed to a wide range of future opportunities, including access to technical and advisory assistance, participation in international platforms, direct engagement with global tourism leaders, and use of UN Tourism's comprehensive digital library. Additional benefits include organizing joint global events, enhancing visibility for licensed travel agencies,

facilitating foreign tourist arrivals in the region, and accessing up-to-date tourism data and reports. Aras Free Trade Zone will also be able to join UN Tourism's specialized networks and working groups.

Moqadamzadeh emphasized that this membership allows the Aras region to actively participate in global conferences and exchange expertise with over 500 leading institutions from the private sector, academia, and local governments.

UN Tourism comprises 160 member states, 6 associate members, and over 500 affiliate members from academic, private sector, and civil society organizations worldwide. Moqadamzadeh expressed pride in Aras's inclusion in this distinguished group.

The Aras Free Trade Zone had previously secured affiliate membership in 2019,



arasfz.ir

but the affiliation was inactive for several years. Following recent efforts, the organization's membership

has now been formally reinstated. Initially established to support and enhance commer-

cial and industrial activities, Iran's free trade and industrial zones are uniquely positioned in some of the

country's most stunning and distinctive regions. From the serene beaches of Ziba Kenar in the Anzali Free Zone, to the pristine shores of Darak village in the Chababhar Free Zone, and from the lush Arasbaran forests in the Aras Free Zone, to the evergreen mangrove forests of Qeshm, these zones encompass natural wonders that are truly unparalleled on a global scale.

In addition to their scenic landscapes, the zones boast rich cultural, historical, social, and religious attractions, offering significant potential for tourism development. Complemented by growing health, agricultural, and cultural infrastructures, these zones stand as vibrant hubs that not only foster economic growth but also enrich Iran's tourism landscape with their distinctive and diverse offerings.

Nomadism, pastoralism are dynamic parts of West and Central Asia's cultural heritage



yjc.ir

By Fumiko Ohinata
UNESCO Secretary-General for Intangible Cultural Heritage

OPINION

Cultural heritage related to nomadism and pastoralism — whether expressed through skills, music, or handicrafts — represents a rich and dynamic part of the cultural heritage of West and Central Asia, a region that has long served as a crossroads of civilizations. On behalf of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), it is a pleasure and an honor to participate in the expert meeting entitled "Developing Entrepreneurial Skills of Women Bearers of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Settled Nomadic Communities", organized in the context of sustainable livelihoods and economic empowerment.

Even in a world rapidly moving toward urbanization, the traditions of nomadism continue to inspire our imagination and admiration. This longstanding heritage serves as a source of solidarity and national pride for the countries across this vast region. Moreover, we recognize that the knowledge and traditions of pastoral and nomadic life play a fundamental role in addressing the challenges of sustainable development — including livelihoods and food security. To underscore this, the United Nations has

designated 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. Yet, as is true for all forms of living heritage, the bearers and practitioners of this heritage face challenges, particularly in adapting their methods of knowledge and skill transmission to contemporary lifestyles.



basijnews.ir

It is therefore deeply gratifying to see that the Tehran Intangible Heritage Center has taken a significant step toward safeguarding this invaluable heritage by organizing this meeting and specialized workshop.

This initiative aligns fully with the activities of the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. As you may recall, in 2023 we presented the Guiding Note on the Economic Dimensions of Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage to the intergovernmental committee of the convention. This document addresses the challenges

communities face in balancing the avoidance of excessive commercialization and cultural exploitation on one hand, with achieving fair and sustainable benefits from heritage-related activities on the other. Accordingly, the note emphasizes the necessity of a flexible, heritage-centered, and community-rights-based approach to planning and managing the economic dimensions of safeguarding.

This issue has long been central to the convention, as at its core are local communities, among which women play a pivotal role. In many communities, women not only provide for their families' livelihoods but also transmit knowledge, skills, and cultural practices to future genera-

tions. Undoubtedly, organizing workshops like this offers an opportunity to explore innovative ways of engaging with communities, especially women bearers of heritage, to enhance their social and economic status — a factor that contributes directly to inclusive and sustainable social development.

Such efforts are a true embodiment of the spirit of the 2003 Convention — a spirit grounded in empowering communities, ensuring intergenerational transmission of knowledge, and leveraging living heritage to build an inclusive and sustainable future.

Aba weaving boosts local economy in Dashti

Iranica Desk

Aba, a traditional Middle Eastern cloak worn over clothes, is a symbol of cultural heritage and artisanal skill. Currently, 26 active workshops in Kordovan, Ziarat and Boheiri (also known as Bowheyr) villages, and the town of Khormoj in Dashti, Bushehr Province, produce these precious cloaks using camel wool and the traditional skills of local weavers.

Beyond the domestic market, these handwoven textiles are exported to countries such as Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and even the United Kingdom, where they are recognized as symbols of Iranian authenticity and quality, according to chn.ir.

Dashti Aba (Aba-ye Dashti), is regarded as one of the most exquisite and authentic handwoven textiles. Today, it shines not only in the southern regions of Iran but also in international markets.

Aba weaving in Dashti has a history spanning several centuries and has long been an inseparable part of the region's culture and economy. This traditional craft has often been passed down through generations within families, with rural women playing a crucial role in preserving and expanding it. Depending on workshop capacity and available labor, a single workshop can produce, given sufficient raw materials — especially camel wool — a roll of fabric measuring 7.5 meters in length and 85 centimeters in width within two weeks.

The price of these cloaks varies depending on density, color, type of yarn, and weaving finesse. In international markets, particularly in European countries such as the UK, Dashti Aba sometimes commands high prices, reflecting the significant economic value of this local craft.

Globally, Aba weaving is recognized in three main types: Dashti Aba (Aba-ye Dashti) from Iran, Najafi Aba from Iraq, and Hejazi Aba from Saudi Arabia. Among these, Dashti Aba is considered



IRNA

the finest due to the softness of its fibers, natural color, and dense, delicate weaving. Handcraft experts regard Dashti Aba as the highest-quality and most durable type of Aba in the Middle East and even worldwide.

The secret of this exceptional quality lies in Dashti camel wool, a breed genetically native to Bushehr Province and one of Iran's valuable biological resources. These camels are raised in Dashtestan, Tangestan, Bushehr, Ganaveh, and Dashti, but the purest breeds are still found in the natural pastures of Dashti.



yjc.ir

Due to the region's specific climate, native forage, and the warm, dry southern weather, Dashti camels produce wool that is naturally soft and lustrous. The camels' unique fat composition makes their wool both lighter and more durable. However, experts warn that in recent years, the genetic purity of these camels has been under threat, which could negatively affect wool quality and, consequently, the excellence of Dashti Aba.

heritage of the culture, history, and ecosystem of Bushehr's people — a blend of skill, patience, and beauty woven into every thread. Preserving and promoting this authentic craft requires careful planning, governmental support, and education for the next generation, ensuring that this ancient industry continues to enrich Iran's economy and culture, and keeps Dashti recognized as the beating heart of Aba weaving in the world.



Int'l Iranology forum opens in Tehran

Minister hails unceasing cultural heritage



Ali Akbar Salehi, president of the Iranology Foundation, speaks at the opening of the Iranology Forum hosted by the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) in Tehran, on November 15, 2025.
● iranology.ir

past and shape the future."

Iranology must portray Iran 'as it is'

Ali Akbar Salehi, president of the Iranology Foundation, followed with a call for scholars to reclaim what he called "the true image of Iran," free from stereotypes or politically filtered narratives.

"Iranology, in the proper sense, is part of the broader effort to link civilizations," he said. Such connections, he added, are forged "not by power, but by knowledge, culture and human experience."

He told delegates the forum was both an academic conference and "a chance for Iranian and global thinkers to sit together, speak and rediscover the art of good listening."

Salehi urged scholars to portray Iran as "plural, dynamic and far beyond clichés," insisting that Iran must be presented "with truth and justice."

The Iranology Foundation, he said, served as "a bridge between past and future," but one that must avoid being reduced to "mere memory." Instead, he argued, it should channel the "living spirit of Iranian identity." In an era of selective images and "directed narratives," he said, Iran's story should be told "in Iran's own language," anchored in historical experience and scholarly integrity.

Iranologists, he said, act as "cultural ambassadors" whose

words, articles and daily interactions help shape international perceptions.

He warned that global media often produce "distorted images" of Iran, and he cast the conference as a chance to "challenge those misperceptions." Accurate knowledge, he said, was both "a service to the country" and "an antidote to Iranophobia." Mutual understanding, he added, required respect and human dignity, "Dialogue is the gateway to peace."

Salehi highlighted the presence of more than 60 scholars from 24 countries, calling it "a sign of affection for a culture with deep roots." He said knowing Iran meant experiencing it firsthand, "walking its streets, drinking tea in its homes, seeing the world through its people's eyes."

The Iranologists come from countries including Spain, Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Oman, Qatar, Tunisia, India, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Sri Lanka.

Diversity, source of strength

Iran's Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri told the conference that Iran's identity is defined by "layers of deep history, culture and civilization."

"Iran is more than a geography," he said. "It is a land of symbols and mysteries." He recalled writing "eleven reasons, three decades ago," for why Iran was such a land, adding, "I still stand by them."

Iran's cultural identity, he said, emerged from "a continuous, creative process, not from ruptures," which is why its endurance has outlasted centuries of

conflict. Persia's historical experience, he argued, offers "one of the finest examples of cultural resistance."

He called Persian "the inner code of Iranian identity," a language that binds myths, poetry, wisdom and collective memory. He described modern Iran as "a rare case of diversity within cohesion," where Azeris, Kurds, Baluchis, Turkmens, Arabs and countless dialects "live under the large canopy of Iranian culture." Diversity, he said, was "a source of strength."

Salehi-Amiri also stressed Iran's civilizational role as a cultural mediator along the Silk Road, "drawing from many traditions and influencing them in turn," producing a "globally oriented identity."

He cited the UNESCO inscription of the Cyrus Cylinder, which he described as embodying justice, tolerance and human dignity, as proof of Iran's lasting ethical influence.

The minister portrayed Iran's capacity for regeneration as "the vital spirit of Iranian identity." "Iran has rebuilt itself time and again," he said. "The truth lies in movement and transformation, not stasis. That resilience has empowered Iran in its hardest crises."

He pointed to Iran's tourism potential, one of the few nations offering "nearly every type of tourism," and to its 299 registered handicraft branches, which he described as "aesthetic texts and historical memory." The forum will close in Shiraz on November 18, hosted by Shiraz University, where Iranian and foreign scholars will launch final discussions aimed at establishing a permanent secretariat for an international forum of Iranologists.

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran opened its largest Iranology forum in years on Saturday, using the gathering in Tehran to underline the government's view that the country's cultural development has unfolded without any historical rupture from ancient eras through to the Islamic period.

"Iran has never experienced a historical break," Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Abbas Salehi declared on Saturday, telling delegates that the country's cultural and civilizational continuity has endured natural disasters, foreign invasions and modern political shocks.

Speaking at the international Iranology gathering at the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO), Salehi said

Iran's "creativity and flourishing" stretch across every era.

"We have not had two centuries of silence," he insisted, arguing that the nation's cultural trajectory, "before and after Islam", has been defined by seamless evolution rather than rupture. Salehi said Iran's endurance was "neither accidental nor fragile," citing 5,800 destructive natural events recorded across Iranian history, quakes, floods, droughts, a scale he said "Europe never faced collectively." Yet, he added, "this land still stands."

Salehi also framed Iran's history as a record of strategic cultural resistance. Positioned at a "historic crossroads," Iran faced incursions from East, West, North and South, yet unlike other ancient powers, "Egypt after Cambyes, Rome after invasions,

Greece after Macedonian assaults", Iran, he said, "absorbed and dissolved" aggressors. The Mongols, who "burned and plundered everything," eventually left behind creations like the vast-domed Soltaniyeh complex, whose decorations contain "not one centimeter of Mongol art," he said, calling it evidence of Iran's capacity to internalize and transform foreign influence.

Pointing to contemporary cultural output, Salehi said Iran, despite economic pressure, "is alive" and pushing ahead across literature, music, visual arts, animation, video-game design, and cinema.

Addressing foreign guests, he said Iranologists were engaging not with "a lifeless soil" but with "a living identity," one that could help scholars "revisit the

President calls for trust, family cohesion

Social Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian urged families and society to embrace differing viewpoints and highlighted youth as the cornerstone of the country's future during the third National Population Youth Award in Tehran on Saturday.

Pezeshkian likened life to "climbing a summit," saying achievements emerge through effort and resilience, president.ir reported.

He warned that societal and familial tensions often stem from rejecting opposing opinions, and stressed that disagreements should be managed calmly to nurture growth. He urged young Iranians to develop in an environment of trust, honesty, and friendship, noting that "the future of the country is built by its youth." The president also called for unity across the nation, citing Iran's experience in the "12-day war," where public solidarity bolstered the government and disappointed



adversaries.

Marzieh Vahid-Dastjerdi, the secretary of the National Population Headquarters, said that population policies must be "scientific, logical, and practical," and called for enhanced coordination between cultural, social, and economic institutions with the National Population Headquarters.

Highlighting the government's new measures, she outlined four



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks during the third National Population Youth Award in Tehran on November 15, 2025.
● president.ir

key strategies: Cultural awareness campaigns, simplifying family formation, high-quality child care services, and financial incentives for parents.

Iranian curator named ICOM vice-president in Dubai

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian museum curator Golnaz Golsabahi was elected one of two vice-presidents of the Executive Board of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) at its triennial general conference in Dubai on Saturday, securing a senior seat in the Paris-based body that shapes global museum policy.

Golsabahi, who had already served two consecutive terms on the Executive Board, was chosen alongside Emirati cultural adviser Nasir Al-Darmaki for the 2025-2028 cycle, IRNA reported.

The vote took place during ICOM's 27th General Conference, a

week-long gathering that opened on November 15 with more than 4,500 participants from 119 countries.

Antonio Rodríguez of the United States will chair the Executive Board for the same three-year period, with the next triennial assembly scheduled to convene in the Netherlands in 2028.

The Dubai meeting, the largest in the museum sector's calendar, has drawn hundreds of speakers and delegates who are thrashing out the fast-evolving challenges facing museums, from digital curation and conservation pressures to shifting visitor expectations.

Dubai was formally designated as host city

for the 2025 triennial after the advisory council handed over the ICOM flag to its organizing committee during the 2022 assembly in Prague, a symbolic ritual that marks the transfer of stewardship for the next global gathering.

Founded in 1946, ICOM brings together museum directors, academics, conservators and policy specialists to set professional standards and steer international cooperation. Its general conferences, held every three years, have become a central forum for exchanging ideas and airing concerns about everything from illicit trafficking and heritage protection to climate-driven risks to collections.