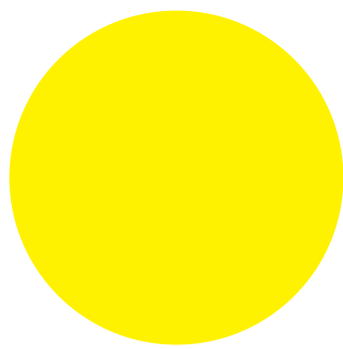


FATF yet to close door on Iran despite blacklist stay: *Official*

3 >



# Iran Daily

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## Araghchi: Tehran-Washington ties can be managed despite distrust in US

2 >

In joint letter to Grossi:

### Iran, Russia, China terminate IAEA mandate on Tehran's nuclear program

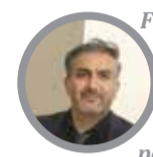
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The photo shows a view of the Arak heavy water reactor, in Iran, on December 23, 2019. REUTERS

### Iran part of Chinese-Russian front against western unilateralism

**I N T E R V I E W**  
**E X C L U S I V E**



For years, Iran has pursued a "Look East" policy, seeking to strengthen its ties with the Eastern bloc to stand up to the West's unilateral and hegemonic policies. China and Russia, both permanent members of the UN Security Council, have now become crucial anchors for Tehran. Since the US withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal and the imposition of unilateral sanctions, and more recently, after France, Germany, and the UK reactivated the UN snapback mechanism, both countries have consistently backed Tehran. In their latest move, they joined Tehran's legal efforts to challenge the reimposition of sanctions.

Yet, Iran has only recently emerged from a 12-day war with Israel, involving US participation, and continues to face military threats. Against this backdrop, the question arises: how deep can this alignment go, and where might the limits of Chinese and Russian support lie?

Omid Khazani, an international affairs analyst, told Iran Daily that both China and Russia see Iran as part of the front resisting the US-led Western unilateral order.

**IRAN DAILY: How has the 12-day war shaped the joint security policies of Tehran, Beijing, and Moscow?**

**KHAZANI:** The 12-day war may carry different meanings for each of these countries. For Iran, China, and Russia, the implications vary. From Iran's perspective, the war was another example of the one-sided game played by the US and Israel. International institutions, particularly NATO, the European Union, and the Council of Europe, failed to condemn the aggression; only Iran's regional and international partners, including China and Russia, voiced their condemnation and offered moral support.

Iran, in turn, has come to recognize its defensive weaknesses and is therefore expected to turn to its strategic partners for security guarantees, with Russia and China being the most accessible and significant. Pakistan could also play a secondary role.

More broadly, every such war triggered unilaterally by the West under US and European leadership, often through their regional proxy, Israel, sends a message to the entire world, including China, Russia, Iran, and other independent or "Global South" nations. These states are increasingly discontent with an international order tied up with US unilateralism. While they may not officially acknowledge it, behind closed doors their informal rhetoric and back-channel talks have placed greater emphasis on closing ranks against Western unilateralism and NATO's dominance.

As for China's role, Beijing has long followed a "keep a low profile" strategy, steering clear of deep global entanglements. But China has now emerged as a world power whose security concerns are too significant to ignore. Its GDP is set to overtake that of the US, which sees Beijing as its biggest rival economically and militarily. This reality compels China to look for allies, and both Russia and Iran can form part of that circle. Beyond security, the Belt and Road Initiative remains central to China's economic strategy, and Iran occupies a key position on that map. Any instability or conflict in Iran would run counter to China's economic interests. Russia, too, would suffer enormously from Iran's collapse or a full-scale war there. After the Ukraine conflict and severe sanctions, Moscow views Iran, China, and other partners as lifelines.

For China, even if not purely strategic, Iran is tactically important: any conflict in the Persian Gulf or Iran would jeopardize global energy security, from which China, the world's main energy consumer, would directly suffer. It is therefore natural that defense, security, and military cooperation among Iran, China, and Russia will continue to gain momentum.

'Conflicting status' of Iran's case at UNSC; role of China, Russia

### Sanctions Committee cannot function without consensus:

*Former diplomat*

**I N T E R V I E W**

4 >



### Iran Women beats Nepal to win Indian tourney

6 >



### Autumn breathes new life into Bushehr

7 >



### Beijing University hosts ceremony honoring Persian poet Hafez

'Shared of humanity in search of truth, love and beauty'

8 >

Page 3 >

## In joint letter to Grossi:

Iran, Russia, China terminate IAEA  
mandate on Tehran's nuclear program

## International Desk

Iran, China, and Russia in a joint letter to the UN nuclear agency affirmed the termination of the agency's reporting concerning Iran's nuclear energy program and the expiration of the Security Council Resolution 2231. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Kazem Gharibabadi, in a post on X on Friday said that ambassadors and permanent representatives of China, Iran and Russia sent the letter to Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Mariano Grossi. It came after the three countries' joint letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations and President of the Security Council declaring the termination of Resolution 2231 on October 18, which endorsed the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

In the letter to the IAEA chief, he noted, the three countries reaffirmed the "illegal" move by the European trio — Britain, France and Germany — to invoke the so-called snapback mechanism and the expiration of all provisions of Resolution 2231 on October

18, 2025.

"But there is another key point which relates to the end of the mandate of the IAEA Director General's reporting on verification and monitoring under the Resolution 2231 and the implementation of the JCPOA," Gharibabadi emphasized, referring to the 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

According to the Iranian diplomat, the letter asserted that in the IAEA, "the implementation of the JCPOA, as well as verification and monitoring in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of UNSCR 2231, were enacted by the resolution of the Board of Governors of 15 December 2015 (GOV/2015/72)."

He said, "Operative paragraph 14 of this Resolution unequivocally stipulates that the Board 'decides to remain seized of the matter until ten years after the JCPOA Adoption Day or until the date on which the Director General reports that the Agency has reached the broader conclusion for Iran, whichever is earlier'."

"Consequently, as of 18 October 2025, the related agenda item has been automatically



The photo shows a view of the Arak heavy water reactor, in Iran, on December 23, 2019.

● REUTERS

removed from the agenda of the Board of Governors, and no further action is required in this regard," Gharibabadi pointed out.

## End of UN restrictions

On October 18, Tehran declared an end to all UN restrictions on its nuclear program following the expiration of Security Council resolution 2231.

In 2015, Iran and world powers — including France, Britain and Germany — reached an agreement that saw the easing of international sanctions on Tehran in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program.

But the United States unilaterally withdrew from the accord in 2018 and reimposed biting economic sanctions.

Tehran adhered to the deal until Washington's withdrawal, and then began rolling back on its commitments.



The European parties to the deal failed to fulfill their commitments to the agreement. Several rounds of talks to revive the agreement failed, and in August, the UK, Germany and France triggered the "snapback" process on the pretext of Iran's non-compliance

with its obligations, leading to the re-imposition of the UN sanctions.

Iran has rejected the legality of the triggering the snapback of UN sanctions, calling the mechanism "null and void" and a "fabricated" term.

Iran to host second SCO joint  
counterterrorism drill in December

● sectsco.org

## International Desk

Iran is set to host the 2025 Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) second joint counterterrorism exercise in December, according to a senior official with the intergovernmental organization.

Olarbek Sharshiev, Executive Committee Director of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the SCO, announced at a press briefing on Friday that the drill, named "Sahand-Counterterrorism-2025," is scheduled near the northwestern city of Tabriz on December 4.

He added that official invitations and detailed schedules will soon be sent to participating and observer countries.

Given that terrorist threats are often cross-border and affect multiple nations, the large-scale exercise in Iran aims to strengthen member states' operational readiness and coordination in joint counterterrorism efforts.

This will be the second joint counterterrorism exercise among SCO member states since the organization's founding in 1996.

The first, titled "Anti-terrorism Interaction-2024," took place in China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region last year and involved live drills and specialized operations, including "the eradication of terrorist groups," according to China's Ministry of Public Security.

"The exercise marks the first time the relevant agencies from all SCO member states have participated in a joint counter-terrorism live drill," the state-run Xinhua news agency reported on July 23, 2024.

The SCO is a Eurasian intergovernmental organization created to promote multilateral security, economic, and political cooperation.

It was founded in 1996 by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan with the primary goal of countering terrorism, extremism, and

separatism. Uzbekistan later joined, and the organization was renamed the SCO.

Initially seen as a strategic counterweight to US influence in Central Asia, the SCO has gradually expanded. India and Pakistan became full members in 2017, followed by Iran in 2023 and Belarus in 2024.

The 25<sup>th</sup> SCO Summit of Heads of State was held on August 31 in Tianjin, China, with leaders from more than 20 countries, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, attending alongside representatives from 10 international organizations.

The SCO's current full members include Iran, Russia, Belarus, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

RATS, a permanent SCO body, coordinates counterintelligence, counterterrorism, and intelligence-gathering activities among member states. It also supports initiatives to combat the "Three Evils": terrorism, separatism, and religious extremism.

The organization aims to eventually establish transnational enforcement capabilities, including SCO police and military forces.

In recent years, RATS has expanded its focus to include narcoterrorism and drug smuggling, which have become major sources of funding for anti-government activities in member states.

Additionally, RATS maintains a database of individuals and organizations that support groups classified as terrorists, separatists, or extremists by SCO members.

Araghchi: Tehran-Washington ties can be  
managed despite distrust in US

## International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the Islamic Republic can manage its relations with the United States, adding that there is no reason to pay any price in this regard despite a lack of trust in the US. Araghchi said in an interview with Dariush Sajjadi, a political US-based analyst, that the Islamic Republic has serious differences in opinion with the US, most of which relate to its domineering behavior.

"As long as the US maintains its domineering nature and as long as the Islamic Republic insists on not yielding to domination, the problem between us will not be resolved." However, he said that if Washington puts aside its hegemonic attitude toward Iran, "We can engage with each other."

Araghchi also pointed to Iran's lack of trust in the US, especially after several rounds of negotiations on Iran's nuclear program, saying that the problem is rooted in "bitter experiences".

"We negotiated once with the Americans, reached an agreement, implemented it honestly; they walked away and the sanctions came back. Again, under the late (Iranian) president Raisi, we negotiated, reached a (nuclear) agreement; the prisoners were freed, our funds in South Korea were released, but they were blocked in Qatar and were never used."

"This year, we entered negotiations; in the middle of the talks, we came under attack, the US backed the (Israel) aggression, and then joined it. In New York, there was an opportunity for negotiation; they had ut-



The photo grab shows Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) who speaks in an interview with political analyst Dariush Sajjadi.

terly unreasonable and illogical demands — for instance, that we hand over all our enriched materials (uranium) while they would just extend snapback mechanism for six months. What rational person would accept that?" the Iranian foreign minister said. Iran has repeatedly said that if the US is ready to negotiate from an equal footing, with a sincere approach, for an agreement based on mutual respect, "We have never abandoned diplomacy," Araghchi said.

He underlined that Iran will not back down from the rights of the Iranian people, nor will put up with domination and coercion against the Iranians.

Relations between the two countries severed following the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979. However, they have held several negotiations in more than two decades to resolve a dispute over Iran's nuclear activities. But the negotiations have failed to yield no result so far due to the West, especially the US, excessive demands in the talks.

Israel's 'chronic impunity' must end after ICJ opinion on Palestine: *FM spox*

## International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei called for an end to the "chronic impunity" granted to Israel by its supporters and apologists, following a new International Court of Justice (ICJ) opinion that condemns the regime's violations of international humanitarian law. The ICJ issued a legal opinion on October 22, stating that Israel, as an occupying power, is obligated to work with UN agencies to facilitate humanitarian aid in Gaza. At the same time, Israel was "also under a negative obligation not to impede the provision of these supplies," the court

said.

In a post on X on Saturday, Baghaei said the ICJ's opinion once again exposes "the undeniable truth that the Israeli regime continues to be the tremendous violator of each and every norm of international humanitarian law."

He noted that the court reaffirmed Israel's obligation to ensure the basic needs of Palestinians living under its occupation, including supplies essential for their survival, and stressed that the regime must not obstruct the provision of such supplies.

The ICJ, he added, has recalled the prohibition under international law against

using starvation as a method of warfare. Baghaei also referred to the court's previous opinion, which reaffirmed that the occupation of Palestinian lands is "unlawful" and must end.

He said the Israeli regime has consistently defied these principles and is denounced by both the ICJ and the International Criminal Court (ICC) for committing war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Gaza.

In July 2024, the ICJ released another advisory opinion declaring that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories is "unlawful" and should be terminated without delay.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

## CARTOON



# FATF yet to close door on Iran despite blacklist stay: *Official*



## Economy Desk

The head of Iran's Financial Action Task Force (FATF) delegation said the global watchdog has not shut the door on Iran, after the country remained on the global watchdog's blacklist.

Hadi Khani, the deputy finance minister, emphasized on Saturday that recent engagements mark the start of a new phase of technical and legal dialogue aimed at resolving the country's long-standing compliance challenges, IRNA reported.

Iran's accession to key international anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing conventions marks the beginning of engagement with the FATF, not an exit from

the global watchdog's blacklist, Khani said.

Despite Iran's approval of the Palermo Convention in May and its official accession to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) on October 21, the country remains on the list, prompting commentary from experts.

"The country's case with FATF is now on a proper technical and legal track and will be pursued vigorously until the expected results are achieved," Khani said.

"Approval of the Palermo Convention and the CFT does not equate to leaving the blacklist. Rather, the country's interactions to address long-standing FATF challenges have only just

begun and are expanding day by day," he added.

Iran attended the FATF meetings in Paris (October 22-24) for the first time in six years as it tries to get off a global financial blacklist.

The FATF continues to list Iran, alongside North Korea and Myanmar, as a "high-risk jurisdiction subject to a Call for Action" due to what it claims to be "significant deficiencies" in its anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML/CFT) frameworks.

While the FATF acknowledged the country's re-engagement with it to address deficiencies in its AML/CFT regime, it claimed that the country has failed to address the majority of the action plan it laid out to

counter such "illicit" activities since 2016.

## FATF accepts strength of Iran's domestic laws

Khani emphasized that the Palermo Convention, one of the 41 items on Iran's FATF action plan, was the main topic at the recent FATF meeting, as the CFT had been ratified after the reporting deadline.

"Because Iran ratified the CFT after the reporting deadline, only the Palermo Convention was discussed at the recent FATF meeting."

"Regarding Iran's conditions on this convention, aside from one clause requiring further legal review, we presented documentation showing that our domestic laws are stronger

than those under Palermo — a position FATF accepted. Bilateral technical sessions will continue," he said.

The statement by the task force said, "Iran will remain on the FATF High Risk Jurisdictions Subject to a Call for Action statement until the full Action Plan has been completed. As the FATF previously stated, should Iran ratify and implement the Palermo and Terrorist Financing Conventions, in line with the FATF standards." Iran's efforts to exit the FATF blacklist began roughly a year ago, after 14 of the past 18 years during which the country's economy and trade — even with allied nations — were affected by FATF restrictions.

## Tehran to help Dushanbe develop capital market, launch new exchanges



## Economy Desk

Iran and Tajikistan agreed on Saturday to expand cooperation in developing the latter's capital market and establishing new exchanges, Mehr news agency reported.

Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) expressed readiness to assist Tajikistan in setting up commodity exchanges and developing commodity-backed securities, the SEO chief said during a meeting with Tajikistan's minister of finance in Dushanbe.

"With nearly 60 years of experience in the securities market and over 20 years in commodity exchanges, the organization is ready to help establish commodity exchanges and implement commodity-backed securities in Tajikistan, sharing its expertise with the country," Hojatollah Seyyedi said.

He expressed hope that the meeting would mark "the beginning of deeper cooperation between the two countries to develop capital markets."

Both sides called for stronger collaboration in capital market development.

Tajik Finance Minister Faiziddin Qahhorzoda said that expanding cooperation with countries around the world is a priority in Tajikistan's economic policy. "We already have broad economic ties with Iran, but we believe these relations should be further strengthened and taken to a higher level," he said.

Highlighting Tajikistan's steady economic growth over the past decade, Qahhorzoda added, "The country's economic growth has been stable in recent years, and we seek closer cooperation with Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization to develop the capital market and establish new exchanges in Tajikistan."

Tajikistan has experienced robust economic growth over the past decade, averaging above 7.1% annually according to the World Bank. In 2024 the economy expanded by 8.4% year-on-year, driven by strong remittance inflows and rising domestic demand.

## Iran part of ...

**What role have China and Russia played in countering the threats arising from the activation of the snapback mechanism against Iran? Have they increased their security and trade commitments toward Tehran?**

The snapback mechanism is a curious development in that it has effectively broken the consensus. Both Russia and China, as permanent Security Council members, have openly declared the move illegal and their support is immensely significant.

Even if that backing were not at legal level, the moral and diplomatic support of Moscow and Beijing has already taken the sting out of the snapback process. Both countries are major trading partners of Iran. By refusing to recog-

nize the mechanism, they reduce its practical impact.

According to a statement by Iran's Foreign Ministry, more than 100 countries have expressed opposition or legal noncompliance with the mechanism, a stance that would have been impossible without the backing of two permanent Security Council members. Moreover, should any new resolution be proposed under the snapback framework, China and Russia can exercise their veto.

They have also clarified that the UN is not obliged to enforce the measure, which is a major development, particularly with China taking the lead on this stance.

However, it would be simplistic to assume that China, whose long-term

interests lie in avoiding major global tensions, would sacrifice its strategic priorities for Iran or even for Russia. Beijing's overarching goal is to sustain its current economic growth rate around five to six percent and to stay away from direct confrontation with the US. Still, helping Iran avoid another war in the Persian Gulf fits within China's strategic interests. After all, a large-scale conflict would endanger global energy stability, something Beijing can ill afford.

**What steps have China and Russia taken to safeguard Iran's energy security and trade routes?**

The mere fact that China continues to buy Iranian oil shows its unwillingness to bow to US and UN sanctions.

It also gives Beijing a bargaining chip in its trade talks with Washington. Just last week, Iranian oil tankers, for the first time in a long while, were sailing toward China with their transmitters switched on.

China's refusal to recognize the sanctions means that some of its second-tier refineries can continue purchasing Iranian crude, though with discounts. Still, that constitutes a vital form of support.

According to unofficial reports, there has also been military cooperation, though the extent of it remains unclear. Yet such reports have been consistently corroborated by multiple informal sources.

**Could the 12-day war pave the way for**

**fundamental changes in the trilateral relationship among Iran, China, and Russia?**

It would be overly simplistic to claim that the war could bring about structural changes, particularly in China's case. However, Beijing views Iran as part of the front resisting US unilateral domination. As the holder of the world's third-largest oil and gas reserves, Iran plays a critical role in China's economic contest with Washington.

Russia's situation is quite different. It is already bogged down in sanctions and, economically and technologically, lags far behind China. Thus, Tehran's primary economic focus is on Beijing, while its security partnership with Moscow remains strategically important.

## 'Conflicting status' of Iran's case at UNSC; role of China, Russia

# Sanctions Committee cannot function without consensus: *Former diplomat*

### INTERVIEW

As October 18 marks the expiration date of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, a new dispute has broken out between Iran and Western powers over the fate of Iran's nuclear file. While Tehran takes the official expiration date of this resolution as the removal of the Iranian nuclear issue from the Security Council's agenda, the three European countries and the United States, leaning on their own interpretation of the JCPOA, claim that UN sanctions have been automatically snapped back following the Council's vote to trigger the "snapback" mechanism. This dispute has also driven a wedge between the Council's permanent members — with China and Russia on one side, and France, the UK, and the US on the other. The disagreement has given rise to discussions on how resolutions should now be implemented, particularly regarding the formation of the sanctions committee and expert panel, and the role of Beijing and Moscow in this context.

To shed light on the future of this dispute and the role of China and Russia as permanent members of the Security Council, Kourosh Ahmadi, a former Iranian diplomat at the United Nations and an international affairs expert, gave an interview, the translation of which you can read below:

Kourosh Ahmadi



With Resolution 2231 having expired on October 18, and considering recent discussions within the Security Council by Iran, can we say that UN sanctions have now been fully reinstated against the country?

**AHMADI:** Resolution 2231, in paragraphs 8 and 9, clearly lays out the situation we are now facing. Paragraph 8 states that the resolution expires on October 18, meaning that the anti-Iran resolutions terminated under paragraph 7(a) will no longer be enforceable, and Iran's nuclear issue will be taken off the table at the Security Council. Paragraph 9, however, notes that if paragraph 12 is implemented and the six previous resolutions come back into force, paragraph 8 will not apply. The problem now is that Western states, along with some non-Western countries and the UN Secretariat, are talking up the implementation of paragraph 12 and writing off paragraph 8. But we — along with Russia and China — do not recognize the return of sanctions and stick to the view that paragraph 8 remains valid.

As a result, we are now caught in a contradictory situation that has come about following two recent votes at the Security Council, clouding the whole issue. Western parties claim that the six previous resolutions have been brought back, while Iran, Russia, and China reject that claim. The UN, unfortunately, weighed in on September 28 with a statement that effectively hinted at the return of those resolutions. However, politically and morally, the fact remains that the three European states — which failed to uphold their own commitments under the JCPOA — and the United States, which had already pulled out of the deal, were in no position to turn back the clock and push through six old resolutions against Iran.

From a legal standpoint, it remains to be seen how far the international community will fall in line with this view in practice. So far, there are indications that Western countries and some developing nations go along with the idea of reinstating the resolutions — as seen recently in a joint statement by the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Union, referring to the "return of resolutions against Iran". It now remains to be seen how this process will play out. The outcome will partly depend on decisions taken by the Security Council, on how Russia and China move forward, and on the functioning of the 1737 Sanctions Committee and 1929 Panel of Experts. Member states are required to submit implementation reports to these committees, and that will be a key indicator of which countries file reports and which hold back.



China's former United Nations ambassador Zhang Jun (L) confers with Russia's UN Ambassador Vasily Nebenzya (R) before a UN Security Council meeting at UN headquarters on October 25, 2023.

● BEBETO MATTHEWS/AP

**You mentioned that, besides Iran, two permanent members of the UNSC — China and Russia — also agree that the resolution has ended. Given that re-imposing these sanctions involves several steps before they kick in, including the formation of the committee and expert panel, and since the committee's rules require consensus for decisions, to what extent can China and Russia's stance slow down this process?**

Sanctions committees at the Security Council, by practice, make decisions by consensus — meaning that if even one member, permanent or non-permanent, objects, no decision can go through. For instance, in the very first step, a chairperson must be appointed. The 1737 Committee, which is now expected to be reactivated, cannot get off the ground without

a chair. If there is no consensus to appoint a non-permanent member as chair, the committee will run into trouble from the start. Therefore, if China and Russia are bent on creating disruptions, they can block the appointment right away.

In later stages, any decision — such as adding or removing individuals and entities from the sanctions list, submitting reports to the Security Council, or putting them out publicly — must all be approved by consensus. A single country can stand in the way of that consensus. We have already seen a similar situation in the 1718 North Korea Sanctions Committee, where Russia and China threw a wrench in the decision-making process, and the work of the committee ground to a halt.

Of course, even if China and Russia pull out all the stops to dis-

rupt the committee's work, some Iranian individuals and entities previously listed will remain under sanctions. The opposition of these two countries will not wipe out the sanctions or reverse the resolutions' reinstatement, but it can bog down the committee's work and the re-establishment of the "expert panel". Under Resolution 1929, this panel must also be renewed annually, and at that stage, China and Russia can veto its reformation.

**The three European countries, in the "snapback" process, effectively bypassed certain procedural steps and, instead of referring the dispute to the JCPOA Joint Commission, took it straight to a Security Council vote. Could that process legitimately go ahead in such a way?**

Under paragraphs 36 and 37 of

the JCPOA, any dispute must first be referred to the Joint Commission and reviewed in a process lasting about 35 days. If unresolved, only then can it be brought before the Security Council. Our view is that this path was never properly followed through. The Europeans claim they had set the process in motion, but the fact is, it was suspended halfway and was never finalized. Another issue is their claim that Resolution 2231 functions independently from the JCPOA, arguing that paragraph 10 of the resolution merely "encourages" member states to pursue disputes through the Joint Commission — a recommendation, not a legal requirement. Therefore, they claim they could go straight to the Council without completing that step.

Even if it was a recommendation rather than a binding obligation, one would have expected the Europeans to act on the Council's advice, which they didn't. Although they claim to have kicked off the process, from our standpoint, it was never brought to completion and should have been finalized before landing at the Security Council.

On the other hand, while China and Russia can throw sand in the gears of the committee and expert panel, the bigger question is whether they will actually refuse to comply with the resolutions — effectively defying them. For example, will Russia and China go ahead and sell conventional weapons, banned under the resolutions, to Iran and make it public? That would be the biggest show of support they could offer Tehran. Otherwise, beyond stalling the committee and expert panel, not much more can be expected from Moscow and Beijing.

**Now that Iran's Foreign Ministry has kicked off a new political and legal process — including official correspondence by the foreign minister and the activities of Iran's missions in international organizations — what practical steps can Tehran take from here on?**

The current actions, including political outreach, media work, and communications with the UN, are the right moves. Emphasizing that Western countries had no political or moral ground to bring back the resolutions is a key point Iran can hammer home and keep up in the future. Beyond that, regular diplomatic efforts — such as engaging with other countries and urging them not to enforce the resolutions — are part of the Foreign Ministry's routine mandate and are already underway, with plans to carry on. Whether these efforts will actually bear fruit remains to be seen.



Sanctions committees at the Security Council, by practice, make decisions by consensus — meaning that if even one member, permanent or non-permanent, objects, no decision can go through. For instance, in the very first step, a chairperson must be appointed. The 1737 Committee, which is now expected to be reactivated, cannot get off the ground without a chair. Therefore, if China and Russia are bent on creating disruptions, they can block the appointment right away.



In this screengrab, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (C) is seen addressing the United Nations Security Council on the triggering of the snapback mechanism of the JCPOA, while his aides sitting behind him listen, at UN headquarters on September 27, 2025.

● WANA

The interview first appeared in Persian on IRNA.

The 2231 rift

# How Iran's defiance exposes deep divide in global order

  
By Peiman Salehi  
Political analyst

OPINION

On October 18, 2025, the date that was supposed to mark the formal end of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, the very mechanism that anchored the Iran nuclear deal, the world instead has witnessed the widening of a profound geopolitical divide. What should have been a technical expiry of restrictions has turned into a political confrontation that underscores the erosion of Western authority and the rise of a multipolar order.

According to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Resolution 2231 was set to lapse on this date, effectively lifting the last vestiges of UN sanctions architecture against Iran. Yet, instead of closure, the United States and its European allies (the so-called E3) have moved to unilaterally extend the restrictions, invoking the “snapback” mechanism that was meant to be dormant. Iran, backed by Russia, China, and more than 120 countries of the Non-Aligned Movement, has categorically rejected the legitimacy of this move.

In a joint letter sent just before October 18 to the UN Secretary-General, Tehran, Moscow, and Beijing announced that they “do not recognise the validity of any unilateral extension” of Resolution 2231, framing it as a violation of international law and an abuse of multilateral institutions. For Iran, this is more than a legal argument; it is a political declaration that the era of Western monopoly over global norms is ending.

What makes this moment historically significant is not merely the defiance itself, but the chorus of support Iran now finds across the Global South. During the recent meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, 120 nations collectively declared that they “do not recognise any continued enforcement of UNSCR 2231,” aligning their position with Tehran’s. Such a collective stance would have been unthinkable a decade ago, when US sanctions held near-universal weight. Now, however, the world’s emerging economies from Latin America to South Asia increasingly see these Western-led enforcement tools as outdated relics of a unipolar past.

This episode reflects a much broader structural transformation: the fragmentation of the post-1945 international order. The United States and its allies are struggling to maintain control over the institutions they built, while new powers, particularly in the East and Global South, are asserting a new legitimacy rooted in pluralism, sovereignty, and non-intervention. Iran’s challenge to Resolution 2231, then, becomes emblematic



 Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (front row-C) looks at the camera while other participants pose for a group picture at the 19th Midterm Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Kampala, Uganda, on October 15, 2025.  
● IRNA

atic of a wider revolt against Western legalism. For Tehran, the timing could not be more strategic. After the temporary cease-fire in Gaza and Iran’s deliberate absence from the Sharm el-Sheikh conference, which Tehran dismissed as a “political theatre” aimed at legitimising Western mediation, the Islamic Republic has shifted its focus toward consolidating ties with Russia and China. The presence of Ali Larijani, secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, in Moscow that week underscores that the message Tehran is sending is not merely diplomatic but security-oriented: Iran’s strategic future lies with the East. This reorientation comes amid the growing appeal of alterna-

tive institutions such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, where Iran sees frameworks free from Western conditionality. Tehran’s long-term vision, as articulated in its strategic cooperation agreements with both Beijing and Moscow, is to create parallel financial and security architectures capable of resisting Western sanctions and political coercion. The Non-Aligned Movement’s stance reinforces this trajectory. For the first time in decades, a collective bloc representing the majority of the world’s population is openly defying the US-European interpretation of international law. This, in turn, accelerates the polarisation of global governance between two competing

systems: one rooted in Western-dominated institutions, and another emerging around the Eurasian and Global South nexus. From a geopolitical standpoint, this split mirrors the global redistribution of power following years of economic decoupling and technological rivalry. The sanctions, once seen as the hallmark of Western power, have lost their deterrent effect. Iran, once isolated, now finds itself part of a growing coalition of sanctioned or disillusioned states, including Russia, China, and several members of BRICS, that are collectively rewriting the rules of engagement. At the heart of this transformation is a simple reality: Legitimacy is shifting from coer-

cion to cooperation. The West continues to rely on punitive tools, embargoes, exclusion, and conditionality, while the Global South increasingly organises around inclusivity and mutual recognition. In this context, Iran’s resistance to the extension of Resolution 2231 becomes symbolic of a deeper moral struggle: a refusal to accept that legality is defined solely by those who wield the most power. The geopolitical implications extend far beyond Iran’s nuclear dossier. If 120 countries can reject a UN resolution backed by the West, it signals a legitimacy crisis for the very institutions meant to uphold global order. The UN Security Council, once a stage for consensus, risks becoming a forum for division. In that sense, the “snapback” controversy is not just about Iran’s rights; it is about the future of multilateralism itself. For Western powers, the move to reimpose restrictions may provide short-term political cover, but it comes at a long-term strategic cost. Each unilateral action erodes the credibility of the system they claim to defend. For Iran and its partners, this erosion is not a crisis but an opportunity, a chance to redefine global governance on more equitable and multipolar terms. As the dust settles after October 18, one thing is clear: Resolution 2231 no longer represents consensus but contestation. And in that contest, Iran has managed to turn what was once a symbol of its isolation into a platform for global realignment.



 Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi (2nd-L) meets with Ambassadors of China and Russia to the UN to discuss UNSCR 2231 and next joint steps during the 80th UN General Assembly in New York, the US, on September 24, 2025.  
● X

“During the recent meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, 120 nations collectively declared that they “do not recognise any continued enforcement of UNSCR 2231,” aligning their position with Tehran’s. Such a collective stance would have been unthinkable a decade ago, when US sanctions held near-universal weight. Now, however, the world’s emerging economies from Latin America to South Asia increasingly see these Western-led enforcement tools as outdated relics of a unipolar past.

The article first appeared on Middle East Monitor.

# Iran Women beats Nepal to win Indian tourney

## Sports Desk

Three goals inside eight minutes in the second half helped Iran defeat Nepal 3-0 and clinch the Tri-Nation Women's International Tournament title in Shillong, India, on Friday.

The commanding victory came on the back of Tuesday's 2-0 triumph against India and ensured Marziyeh Jafari's girls topped the standings with six points, rendering Monday's match between India and Nepal a formality in terms of the title chase.

Sara Didar, who came off the bench to score twice against the host, again made her presence felt as a substitute, breaking the deadlock in the 49th minute, followed by quick-fire strikes by prolific captain Zahra Qanbari and Shabnam Behesht.

The evening started with Nepal showing admirable resilience against an Iranian team ranked 70th in the world as the South Asian side held its shape in the opening half.

Iran, meanwhile, dominated possession, dictating the tempo and launching wave after wave of attacks, yet Nepal's disciplined backline and determined pressing frustrated



Iranian girls celebrate with the trophy at the Tri-Nation Women's International Tournament in Shillong, India, on October 24, 2025.

● FFIRI

its opponent.

Nepal grew in confidence as the first half wore on, carving out a few half-chances of their own.

Though the finishing was wayward, the sheer grit to fight Iran in midfield was admirable.

The first 45 minutes ended goalless, but it was clear the match was teetering on the edge of a

decisive breakthrough.

That breakthrough came swiftly after the restart, when Didar latched onto a long ball from goalkeeper Raha Yazdani and muscled past defender Bimala BK before coolly slotting home past goalkeeper Anjila Tumbapo Subba to give Iran the lead.

Iran smelled blood and Nepal,

despite its spirited defense in the first half, began to unravel. Qanbari doubled the lead with a superbly executed free-kick from the right flank. Her curling delivery completely outfoxed Subba and nestled into the top-right corner.

Iran's third came in the 57th minute and it was the pick of

the lot. Behesht unleashed a stunning left-footed strike from 20 yards, a rising effort that flew past Subba with pace and precision. It was a moment of pure class that effectively killed off the contest.

Three goals in eight blistering minutes broke Nepal's resistance and confirmed Iran's dom-

inance. The final whistle brought Iranian celebrations, as they lifted the trophy after a statement performance.

The tournament was part of Iran's preparation for next March's AFC Women's Asian Cup in Australia.

Iranian girls, who will feature in the finals for only the second time following their debut in 2022, will play the host, South Korea and the Philippines in Group A of the competition.

Iran will get its campaign underway against South Korea – runner-up to China in the previous edition – at the Gold Coast Stadium on March 2, before squaring off against Australia, which made it to the 2023 World Cup semifinals on home soil, three days later.

Jafari's girls will hope to be in contention for a top-two finish in the group and a last-eight spot when they play the Philippines on March 8.

## Asian Youth Games:

## Iranians claim four golds in mixed martial arts

### Sports Desk

Iranians grabbed four mixed martial arts golds at the Asian Youth Games on Saturday to take the country's haul to 20 medals in the multi-sport event in Bahrain.

Tiam Dehpahlevan defeated Mongolia's Ulziitnaran Bat-Erdene by unanimous decision to claim the ultimate prize in the girls' 60kg weight class.

Iran's second gold in the girls' event came in the 55kg division, where Vania Fat'halipour beat Japan's Atsuhiko Takada by split decision in the final showpiece.

In the boys' competition, Amirmohammad

Hatamian came out on top against Travis Ratcliff of the Philippines, also by unanimous decision, in the 60kg showdown, while Amirmahdi Vazifeh defeated Nurtileu Otegen by neck submission in the 80kg final.

Illia Vahedi had to settle for silver in the 70kg division after a final loss to Tajikistan's Umed Umarjoni.

Saturday's results took Iran's MMA medal count to six following Kamand Karamzad's bronze in the girls' 50kg category on the preceding day.

Elsewhere, Asal Goltappeh, the

Iranian flag barrier in the opening ceremony, had to settle for a silver medal in the taekwondo event following a 2-0 setback against China's Zhang Qing in the girls' +63kg final.

Meanwhile, Iran secured a last-four spot in the girls' futsal event after a goalless draw against the Chinese Taipei in its final game in the group stage on Saturday.

Iranian girls had beaten Hong Kong 6-0 in their opening game in the Games before demolishing the host 14-0 on Friday.

In volleyball, Iran's both girls' and boys' teams progressed to the quarterfinals.

Iranian under-18 girls defeated Indonesia 3-0 on Friday to claim a fourth successive victory in the competition and will face Hong Kong at Isa Sports City today.

The Iranian boys also came out victorious in straight sets against Indonesia to set a last-eight clash with Mongolia today.



Iranian MMA fighter Tiam Dehpahlevan celebrates with the Iranian flag after winning the gold medal in the girls' 60kg event at the Asian Youth Games in Sakhir, Bahrain, on October 25, 2025.

● JSNA

## IHF Men's U17 World Championship:

## Iran off to losing start against Germany

### Sports Desk

Iran got off to a losing start at the inaugural Men's U17 Handball World Championship in Casablanca, Morocco, suffering a 45-20 against Germany in Group C on Friday.

German Can Akkoc delivered a player-of-the-match performance, while Kalle Gaugisch and Julius Eisend contributed with six goals apiece for the European powerhouse.

Mohsen Hadizadeh topped the scoring for Iran with five goals, with Amirhossein Samarbakhsh finishing on four.

Germany was the favorite before the contest, however the European team was missing two key players, but that was nowhere to be seen, as it dominated the match against the Asian champion.

Iranians were coming with big ambitions in this competition, especially as they were crowned Asian champions last month, but they failed to contain Germany, which used the entirety of its roster, with all outfield players scoring at least one goal.

By half-time, Germany was up 19-10, but still missed a lot of chances, with the shooting efficiency drastically improving in the second half, when the Eu-



Germany's Leonard Volk shoots during a victory over Iran at the Men's U17 Handball World Championship in Casablanca, Morocco, on October 24, 2025.

● IRIHF

ropean side upped the ante and had its overall efficiency up to 66%.

Gaugisch and Eisend scored almost one goal per minute in the second period to help Germany jump to an eventual 45-20 win, the second-largest in the competition so far.

Elsewhere in the group, Agustin Refojos scored seven goals to steer Argentina to a 43-25 victo-

ry over Puerto Rico.

Iranian boys will face Argentina in their second outing on Sunday, before taking on Puerto Rico two days later at the Nouacer Hall.

The winner of the three group will secure a place in the semifinals of the 12-team tournament, with the second teams hoping to progress to the last four as the best runner-up.

## Persian Gulf Pro League:

## Persepolis back to winning ways but Hashemian's future in doubt

### Sports Desk

Persepolis secured only a second win in eight games at the new Persian Gulf Pro season, defeating Zob Ahan 2-0 at the Shahr-e Qods Stadium on Friday.

Persepolis striker Mohammad Omri found the net in his first start of the season with a superb curling effort

from the edge of the box in the 37th minute, before prolific striker Ali Alipour headed home his fifth goal of the campaign eight minutes from normal time.

The victory helped Persepolis – which is chasing an eighth top-flight title in a decade – end a six-game winless run in the Iranian league. However, it could

still prove to be the swan song for head coach Vahid Hashemian.

Numerous reports in Iranian media on Saturday suggested that the club has agreed terms with Brazilian Osmar Loss Viera, who is expected to take charge of the Reds for a second spell in the coming days.

Hashemian replaced Turkish

coach Ismail Kartal for his senior managerial debut in July but his tenure in nearing the end after less than four months following a run of drab performances and five frustrating draws in the league.

Osmar, meanwhile, will be treated to a hero's welcome by the Persepolis faithful, having led the Reds to the

2023/24 league crown in his previous stint.

Osmar left Persepolis after his title-winning campaign to join Buriram United, winning a domestic treble as well as the ASEAN Club Championship with the Thai League 1 outfit last season.



Persepolis striker Mohammad Omri (c) celebrates his goal with teammates during a 2-0 win against Zob Ahan in the Persian Gulf Pro League in Shahr-e Qods, Tehran, Iran, on October 24, 2025.

● FFIRI





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mond.ir

# Autumn breathes new life into Bushehr

Iranica Desk

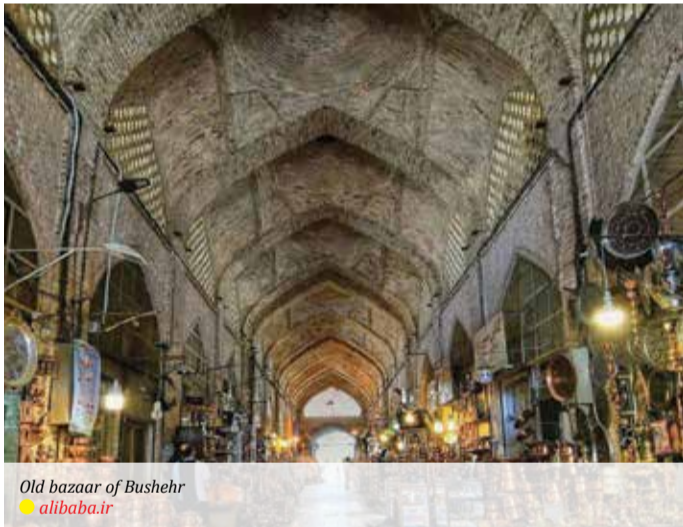
With the arrival of the cool autumn breezes in southern Iran and the gradual drop in temperatures, the southern city of Bushehr slowly awakens from its long, warm summer slumber, taking on a fresh and vibrant atmosphere. Late October and early November mark the beginning of the tourist season for both the residents of Bushehr and travelers drawn to the southern coast — a season in which the sun is no longer scorching, the sea grows calmer, and the port city of Bushehr once again opens its arms to visitors and tourists from across the country. Bushehr’s climate is generally hot and humid, and its long, sweltering summers often limit opportunities for sightseeing and recreation. From July to September, temperatures can sometimes rise above 45°C (113°F), and humidity levels exceeding 80 percent make moving around the city both challenging and uncomfortable. However, with the onset of the southern autumn, the weather gradually becomes pleasant, with average temperatures ranging between 25°C and 30°C (77°F-86°F), creating ideal conditions for outdoor activities, chtn.ir wrote.

This seasonal change provides the perfect opportunity for traveling to the region. During these months, the sea remains warm and inviting, while the surrounding air turns cool and breezy — conditions that are ideal for swimming, boating, marine excursions, photography, or leisurely walks along the beach.



Bushehr Port  
lastsecond.ir

This period also coincides with the start of cultural activities and local festivals. Traditional maritime rituals and live performances of Bushehri music, full of the unique vibrancy and rhythm of the southern region, bring energy, warmth, and excitement to gatherings and celebrations. For these reasons, autumn and winter in Bushehr are not only the season for enjoying natural attractions but also an ideal time for cultural tourism, offering a complete experience of the city’s identity. Bushehr Province stretches from north to south along the turquoise shores of the Persian Gulf, and with more than 900 kilometers of coastline, it is considered one of Iran’s most important marine tourism destinations. The presence of gulfs, islands, sandy and rocky beaches, and historic ports has transformed this province into



Old bazaar of Bushehr  
alibaba.ir

a paradise for nature lovers, sea enthusiasts, and adventure seekers alike. Some of the most notable tourist attractions in Bushehr include: **Historic Bushehr Port:** With its



Delvar Beach  
bushehrmall.com

old urban texture, historic buildings, elegant mansions, narrow winding alleys, and a distinctive blend of Iranian–European architecture, this port reflects the era of foreign merchants’ pres-

ence during the 19th century. **Delvar Beach:** Known as the birthplace of the renowned Tangestani commander Rais Ali Delvari, this beach offers not only historical significance but also a calm, serene, and charming shoreline for relaxation. **Mond Protected Area and Nayband Gulf:** Among the most pristine natural spots in the province, these areas are home to endangered turtles and numerous species of migratory birds, offering nature enthusiasts a unique experience. **Old Bushehr Bazaar and traditional piers:** These locations serve as the intersection of local culture, trade, and maritime life, providing visitors with an authentic glimpse into the everyday lives of the coastal community. In addition to its natural and historic attractions, Bushehr’s local cuisine is an essential part of the

tourism experience. From the famous Bushehri Qalieh Mahi (spiced fish stew) to a wide variety of seafood dishes such as grilled fish, fried shrimp, and Pelo Migo (shrimp with rice), visitors have the opportunity to savor the distinct and unforgettable flavors of southern Iran. In recent years, the growing focus on marine tourism and eco-tourism has led to remarkable improvements in Bushehr’s tourism infrastructure. The development of eco-lodges in the cities and coastal villages of Tangestan, Dayyer, Genaveh, Kangan, Dashti, and Asaluyeh has provided travelers with new opportunities to experience local life and immerse themselves in the unique culture of southern Iran. Moreover, this season witnesses a surge in marine activities such as boat tours, diving, recreational fishing, and island visits. Tourists can enjoy leisurely cruises in the Persian Gulf, witness breathtaking orange-hued sunsets over the water, or explore local markets for handicrafts and seafood souvenirs. The start of the tourist season in Bushehr is more than just a change on the calendar; it symbolizes the city’s revival — a city that lives and breathes by the sea. As the summer heat retreats and cool autumn breezes sweep across the region, Bushehr’s gates open once again to travelers, and this historic port, with all its natural beauty, cultural richness, and human warmth, reclaims its place as a focal point for domestic and international tourism.

## 10 historical houses restored in Nahavand

Iranica Desk

The Head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Nahavand in Hamedan Province announced that ten historical houses in Nahavand have been restored and renovated in recent years. Currently, restoration work is ongoing at the Shojaei House, one of the city’s notable heritage sites. According to Mohsen Janjan, the Shojaei House is located within Nahavand’s historical district, along the staircase path leading to the Bazaar of Pay Qaleh and Imam Hassan Mosque. The property belongs to the Shojaei family and dates back to the early Pahlavi period, featuring distinctive brick decorations, arched designs, and traditional architectural patterns that reflect the craftsmanship of that era. The restoration is being carried out by Nahavand Cultural Heritage

Department with the support of the local representative and governor, chtn.ir wrote. Janjan emphasized that the restoration and revitalization of historical buildings and urban fabrics play a vital role in preserving cultural and historical identity. “Such efforts not only protect valuable heritage structures,” he said, “but also contribute to the growth of tourism, cultural education, and the local economy.” He further highlighted that preserving authenticity remains the primary goal in the restoration of old houses, ensuring that their architectural integrity, materials, and spirit are maintained for future generations. Among other restored heritage sites in Nahavand are the Samsam House, Ebad Mehran House, Fatemi House, and Martyr Ayatollah Qodousi House. Several additional historic buildings

have also been prioritized for restoration in the near future, aiming to turn the city into a living museum of architecture and heritage. In recent years, Hamedan Province has increasingly focused on heritage preservation as a key driver for sustainable cultural tourism. Experts note that restoring traditional homes not only safeguards local identity but also creates new opportunities for cultural tourism, art exhibitions, and local handicraft markets, encouraging both domestic and international visitors to explore the region. Cultural analysts suggest that continued investment in Nahavand’s historical districts could turn the area into a heritage tourism corridor, connecting restored houses, bazaars, and mosques in a way that narrates the city’s deep-rooted history and vibrant traditions.





# Beijing University hosts ceremony honoring Persian poet Hafez

‘Shared voice of humanity in search of truth, love and beauty’

## Arts & Culture Desk

Peking University on Friday held a ceremony marking the legacy of Hafez, Iran's celebrated 14th-century (8th century AH) poet, where Chinese scholars described him as a “shared voice of humanity in search of truth, love and beauty.” The event was attended by Li Shujing, head of the School of Foreign Languages at Peking University, and Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli, Iran's ambassador to China, Chinese broadcaster CGTN reported.

“Hafez's poetry, with its sincere emotion, profound ideas and romantic imagination, has not only shaped the spirit of the Iranian nation but also inspired people around the world,” Li said at the

ceremony.

“China and Iran, two ancient civilizations, have long shared poetry, emotion, truth and wisdom. Honoring Hafez here is both a tribute to a literary genius and a symbol of dialogue between two timeless cultures.”

Ambassador Rahmani Fazli highlighted the close cultural ties between the two nations, noting that Persian language and literature are taught in 14 Chinese universities. “The long-standing Persian program at Peking University, now nearly 70 years old, is a source of pride and reflects the depth of cultural connections between Iran and China,” he said.

Peking University, one of China's oldest centers for Persian studies, plays an active role in intro-

ducing Persian literature to Chinese academia through annual cultural and literary events.

Later in the program, professors from several universities discussed the current state of Hafez studies in China. Students also contributed with a series of presentations highlighting key aspects of Hafez's life and poetic legacy.

To conclude the conference, the Iranian ambassador presented a curated collection of Persian poetry anthologies to the attending professors and students.

Chinese familiarity with Hafez dates back to the early 20th century, when scholars in Beijing and Shanghai first read his poems through Russian and English translations, viewing him



Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli (6th R), Iran's ambassador to China, attends China's Peking University for a ceremony marking the legacy of Hafez, Iran's celebrated 14th-century (8th century AH) poet, in Beijing on October 24, 2025.

as a symbol of Eastern wisdom comparable to Confucius and Laozi. By the 1980s, Hafez's poetry had become part of the Persian literature curriculum at

universities in Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Xi'an and Guangzhou, where students often recite his verses in the original Persian. In recent years, Hafez has come to

symbolize the literary and spiritual bond between Iran and China. Chinese scholars frequently compare him with poets such as Li Bai and Du Fu.

## Four Iranian animations to vie at Greece's ICONA Festival

### Arts & Culture Desk

Four Iranian animated films produced by the Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC) have been selected to compete at the ICONA 2025 Contemporary Animation Festival in Greece, the center announced on Saturday. The selected titles are “Bug” by Ali Masoumi, “Sorrow” by Niloofar Naderi Tehrani, “The Season of Flying” by Shahang Kiani Rashid, and “Dejkak” by Azad Maroufi. Organized by the Department of Audio and Visual Arts at the Ionian University, the ICONA Festival showcases cutting-edge animated works from around the world, fostering creativity, innovation, and global dialogue through visual storytelling.



The four films were submitted to the festival by the international division of DEFC. The seventh edition of the ICONA Festival will take place from November 13 to 16 at Ionian University, Greece.

## Persian culture book released in Bosnia

### Arts & Culture Desk

A new book titled “A World within a Border: The Persian Language, Literature and Culture” has been published in Bosnia and Herzegovina to introduce Iranian culture to local audiences.

The volume, written by Munir Drkic, professor of Persian language and literature at the University of Sarajevo, was jointly released by the Iranian Cultural Attache's Office in Sarajevo and a Bosnian publishing house.



Divided into three thematic sections, the book explores contemporary Iranian culture, the global presence of the Persian language and literature, and the historical

influence of Persian in the Balkans.

The work aims to present a comprehensive picture of Iran's linguistic and literary heritage. While it places special emphasis on classical Persian literature, it also delves into art, handicrafts and even aspects of Iran's economy.

Designed for general readers, the book requires no specialized background and is richly illustrated with photographs, maps and rare manuscripts.

# Universities fighting off teaching challenges in AI era



## INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

As artificial intelligence continues to redefine industries and reshape human interaction, its growing influence on education has become impossible to ignore. Universities around the world are grappling with both the opportunities and challenges AI brings to classrooms, research, and academic ethics. In Iran, conversations about responsible innovation and the balance between technology and intellectual integrity are gaining new momentum.

To explore these issues, Iran Dai-

ly spoke with Davood Masoudi, the director of Smart Governance Think Tank, who shared his insights on how artificial intelligence – particularly tools like ChatGPT – is transforming higher education, re-shaping the student-teacher dynamics, and challenging universities to adapt while safeguarding academic values.

**IRANDAILY:** As the director of Smart Governance Think Tank, how do you view the role of artificial intelligence in higher education?

**Davood Masoudi:** Artificial intelli-

gence (AI) represents a paradigm shift in the landscape of higher education. It holds the potential to personalize learning experiences, expand access to educational resources, and enhance teaching efficiency. However, its integration must be approached with care, particularly concerning ethical issues such as data privacy and algorithmic bias.

**Do you believe tools like ChatGPT are more helpful to students, or do they risk fostering intellectual laziness?**

These tools can greatly support students throughout their learning journey if used responsibly. Nonetheless, there is a valid concern that excessive reliance on such technologies could hinder deep learning and critical thinking. AI should be viewed as an enabler, not a substitute for intellectual engagement.

**What strategies would you recommend for students to use ChatGPT effectively?**

Students should approach ChatGPT as a supplementary learning aid. It can be useful for clarifying complex concepts, generating initial ideas, or identifying credible sources. When used alongside traditional study methods, it can strengthen compre-

hension and analytical abilities. The key is to remain actively engaged in the learning process.

**Some students use ChatGPT to write entire assignments or theses. What are the academic implications of this trend?**

Such practices undermine the integrity of academic work. They deprive students of the opportunity to develop essential research and writing skills and may lead to unoriginal or plagiarized content. Misuse of AI not only weakens individual learning outcomes but also erodes the credibility of academic institutions.

**How can universities distinguish between legitimate educational use and misuse of AI tools?**

Universities must establish clear policies defining acceptable uses of AI in academic settings. These policies should be supported by training programs that promote ethical use, critical thinking, and independent learning. Organizing workshops and expert-led seminars can also raise awareness and foster a culture of responsible innovation.

**Are AI-detection and anti-plagiarism tools available and effective in Iran?**

Yes, several AI-detection and anti-plagiarism tools are currently being de-

veloped and implemented in Iran. These technologies assist in identifying AI-generated content and assessing the originality of academic work. However, ongoing refinement and localization are essential to ensure their effectiveness across diverse academic contexts.

**If a legal or ethical framework were to be established for student use of ChatGPT, what should be its core principle?**

The cornerstone should be the promotion of independent learning and critical thinking. AI must serve as a supportive instrument, not a replacement for academic effort. The framework should also highlight the importance of academic integrity and the authenticity of scholarly contributions.

**Given the rapid pace of technological change, how can universities stay current and benefit from AI advancements?**

Universities should adopt a proactive, research-oriented approach. This includes introducing AI-focused courses, supporting interdisciplinary research, and fostering collaboration with technology companies. Establishing innovation hubs and AI laboratories within academic institutions can further accelerate knowledge transfer and capacity building.