

# Iran in a Week

Germany, France, and the UK have resumed talks with Iran in Istanbul, reflecting a European attempt to reassert itself on the nuclear issue amid declining influence. This comes after threats to reimpose strict sanctions, seen as a last-ditch effort to push Tehran toward flexibility. Despite claims of coordination

with Washington, Europe’s actual role has shrunk, with the U.S. now leading the file. Europe’s remaining leverage lies in the JCPOA’s “snapback” mechanism, which could isolate Iran if non-compliance is confirmed. Concerns are rising following recent attacks on nuclear sites and continued Iranian activity

without oversight. Iran, meanwhile, is using its limited cooperation with the IAEA to buy time, agreeing to technical talks but denying facility access, while also threatening to quit the NPT. These moves highlight Tehran’s strategy to preserve room for maneuver as Europe grows wary of escalating tensions.

## News

### Politics:



**President Masoud Pezeshkian:** “We’re ready to confront Israel. Ending Iran’s nuclear program is a mere illusion.”



**Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi:** “If sanctions are lifted and Iran’s peaceful nuclear rights respected, indirect US talks may occur before the October snapback deadline.”



**Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi:** “NPT withdrawal is on the table. The IAEA team will not access Iran’s nuclear sites.”



**MP Abbas Moghtadaei:** “If Europeans throw stones, their glass house will shatter.”



**Mazandaran cleric Mohammad Baqer Mohammadi Laeini:** “Erasing Israel is the revolution’s core doctrine.”

### Security and Military:



An Iranian navy helicopter issues a sharp warning to a US destroyer in the Gulf of Oman.



**MP Esmail Kowsari:** “More oversight needed on officials’ phones and systems.”



An attack on an IRGC base in Sardasht kills one guard, injures others.



The Nahid 2 communications satellite was launched into space aboard the Russian Soyuz rocket.

### The Region and the World:



MEK leader Massoud Rajavi voices support for Mousavi’s rights, urges protection for him and his wife from Khamenei’s oppression and demands their release from prolonged house arrest.



US Treasury Secretary warns China of tariffs up to 500% on countries importing oil from Iran or Russia.



UN human rights chief urges Iran to halt executions immediately, warning of a worrying spike in 2025.

### Economy:



**Iran’s Central Bank:** Liquidity volume has surpassed 1 quadrillion tomans (around \$145 billion).



**Head of Tehran Contractors’ Union Iraj Rahbar:** “Over 50% of Tehran’s construction workers were Afghans; their post-war deportation has caused serious sectoral disruptions.”

### Society and Culture:



**MP Amir Hossein Bankipour:** “In the 12 day war, we lost 1,000 ‘martyrs’ and saw over 30,000 births during the same period.”



**Government Spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani:** “The Israeli attack on Iran left 1,060 dead, including 276 civilians.”



Tehran faces its worst water crisis ever, with nearly empty dams. 60% of its supply now comes from underground wells.

## Editorials

1



**War: Progress or Ruin?**  
Do aging clerics atop key institutions truly grasp the realities of today’s world or Iran’s evolving society? Criticism targets Friday prayer leaders like Kazem Seddiqi, whose return is seen as irrelevant as Friday prayers have lost influence. Can war really advance Iran by 50 years? History says war only brings destruction.

2



**The Pitfalls of a Nuclear Deterrent**  
Some believe nuclear weapons would shield Iran from a military attack, citing North Korea. But others warn that China and Russia might not support Iran if it violates global norms, and harsher sanctions or deeper isolation are likely. Supporters argue that nuclear weapons could balance Israel and impose a “tense peace” on the region.

3



**Istanbul Talks: Deadlock in Disguise**  
The first round of talks between Iran and the E3 in Istanbul shows little promise. Europe’s track record is weak — they claim to represent the United States, but likely lack its mandate. Abbas Araghchi says he has supreme leader approval to strike a deal with Washington. But if no side shifts its stance, what is left to negotiate?

4



**Vanishing Economy, Hollow Diplomacy**  
Iran’s infrastructure is collapsing — decades of energy investment have evaporated. Water for citizens and agriculture is scarce, while officials tout military readiness against Israel and Europe. But ordinary Iranians face an unlivable reality as livelihoods crumble. The summer of 2025 finds the country angry, exhausted and on edge.