

# Iran in a Week

Recent developments in the Zangezur Corridor are reshaping the South Caucasus, with serious implications for Iran’s security. A White House-brokered deal places the corridor under US administration for decades, granting Azerbaijan unrestricted transit without Armenian oversight. This marks a shift from local dispute to

arena involving major powers. Tehran fears losing its only independent land link to the Caucasus and Europe, while a potential permanent US presence on its sensitive border could fuel ethnic tensions and weaken control over peripheral regions. The project is part of the Middle Corridor connecting Europe and China,

favor of Türkiye and Azerbaijan, and making Armenia a key trade hub. Iran could still pursue a role through targeted investment and diplomacy, but economic constraints, rivalries with Türkiye and Russia and the ambitions of Azerbaijan and Armenia complicate its path forward.

## News

### Politics:



**Supreme Leader’s adviser on international affairs, Ali Akbar Velayati:** Iran, with or without Russia, will block the American corridor in the Caucasus.



**Head of the Government’s Media Council, Elias Hazrati:** The US killed Qassem Soleimani; we should have executed all American leaders, as Haj Qassem’s value surpasses theirs.




**Deputy FM for Political Affairs, Majid Takht-Ravanchi:** Iran may adjust enrichment capacity but will never halt uranium enrichment.



President Masoud Pezeshkian appoints Ali Larijani Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council.

### Security and Military:




**MP Abolfazl Zohrevand:** “We possess a missile with a 12,000 kilometers range and a two-ton warhead, with power equal to several atomic bombs.”



Seven prisoners executed in multiple Iranian prisons.



**IRGC Spokesman Brig. Gen. Ali Mohammad Naeini:** “60% of the world, and 80% in the region, believe Iran’s narrative of victory.”



Nuclear scientist Rouzbeh Vadi was executed over allegations of espionage for Israel.

### The Region and the World:



**The Financial Times:** Iranian nuclear experts secretly visited Russia in August 2024 to inspect nuclear weapons technology sites.



The United States has sanctioned 7 Iranian individuals and 11 Iranian entities for facilitating sanctions evasion and political oppression.



IAEA Deputy Director General Massimo Aparo met with senior Iranian officials in Tehran with consultations to continue later.

### Economy:



Government approves draft law removing four zeros from the currency.



Shargh: Malnutrition, especially among children, now a hidden crisis in at least 14 provinces.



Washington Post: IRGC influences the economy, blocking the IPO of Divar under security pressure.


### Society and Culture:



**Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni:** “1.1 million undocumented Afghans have left Iran respectfully.”



Public holiday declared in over 20 provinces due to soaring temperatures and water and power shortages.



According to District Five Water Company CEO Mohammad Taqi Hosseinzadeh, Tehran has virtually no water.

## Editorials

1

  
Setar-e Sobh Newspaper



**The Future Cannot Be Imprisoned:**  
Releasing political prisoners is a public demand for rationality, compassion and renewed trust in the establishment.

2

  
Shargh



**The Return of Larijani:**  
His appointment to the Supreme National Security Council follows major Middle East shifts and renewed diplomatic engagement.

3

  
Arman Emrooz



**Free Economy Versus Economic Mafia:**  
Entrenched mafias, fed by state rents and monopolies, block growth and equitable wealth distribution

4

  
Jahan-e Sanat Newspaper



**Slower and Worse:**  
Government authority has waned; Parliament and the Expediency Council can block key policies like FATF accession.