

# Iran in a Week

Iran is entering a critical phase, beset by economic breakdown, political erosion and growing security threats. The collapse of the rial, seen as a blow to national pride, along with electricity blackouts and stalled projects, has fueled frustration and widened the gap between society and the state.

Political voices such as Mehdi Karroubi and Sadegh Zibakalam warn that the establishment’s core problem lies not in poor service delivery but in the loss of public confidence after years of failed policies. At the same time, external dangers are mounting, with talk of confrontation with Israel and

unusual acknowledgements of military weakness, particularly in the air force, prompting calls for Chinese aircraft purchases. Against this backdrop, President Masoud Pezeshkian is pushing to ease isolation through deeper ties with Russia, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Lebanon in search of diplomatic and economic alternatives.

## News

### Politics:



**Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref:** “Direct talks with the United States are possible if conditions allow.”



**Supreme Leader’s Adviser Ali Akbar Velayati:** “We monitor developments near our borders, and any threat to our security will face a proper response.”



**Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Larijani, from Lebanon:** “We do not interfere in states’ affairs but always back resistance movements.”



**Strategic Council on Foreign Relations Chairman Kamal Kharrazi:** “Armenia’s government must allay Iran’s concerns.”

### Security and Military:



**Parliament’s National Security Committee member Alaeddin Boroujerdi:** “If America miscalculates, all regional states will suffer.”



**National Security Committee member Amir Hayat-Moqaddam:** “All European countries are within our missile range — not only France, but also Germany, Britain and the rest of Western and Eastern Europe.”



**Iranian Internal Security Forces Spokesman Brigadier General Montazer al-Mahdi:** “21,000 suspects arrested during the war.”



Army ground forces unveil the Simorgh suicide drone, designed to destroy enemy command trenches.

### The Region and the World:



Iraqi police arrest 50 Iraqis over anti-Israel slogans.



Princeton University ends cooperation with former Iranian ambassador to Germany Hossein Mousavian.



Ukraine strikes the Yurt Ulyat-4 vessel carrying munitions and drone parts from Iran.

### Economy:



**Central Bank Governor Mohammad Reza Farzin:** “The national currency has sharply fallen against foreign currencies, harming national prestige.”



**Head of Parliament’s Environment Bloc Somayeh Rafiei:** “93% of the country’s power supply still relies on fossil fuels.”



**Deputy Head of the Electricity Distribution Company Mohammad Allahdad:** “Imported electricity is five times greater than exports.”

### Society and Culture:



**Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni:** “If current trends continue, Iran’s population will fall below 40 million by 2100.”



**Anti-Narcotics Headquarters Secretary-General Hossein Zolfaqari:** “Possible official cultivation of drugs to supply essential medicines.”



**Opposition figure and former Parliament Speaker Mehdi Karroubi:** “Nuclear power has brought the people to the ‘valley floor,’ not the peak.”

## Editorials

1



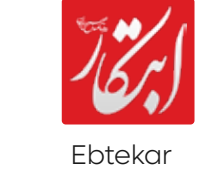
**Iran’s Perilous Situation:** Iran faces severe threats, including possible UN sanctions via the snapback mechanism. Wealth is squandered on unreachable goals like enrichment and anti-Israel slogans, fueling hostility and isolation. Despite Khomeini’s call to preserve the republic above all, today’s leaders oversee its decline.

2



**The Problems Caused by Hardliners:** Extremists block rational policymaking in Iran. They exploit religion for power, shun responsibility and embrace apocalyptic and superstitious beliefs. Unlike in the United States, where such groups lack influence, in Iran they dominate state policy.

3



**Tehran and Nuclear Talks:** Tehran signals flexibility with Washington and Europe under time pressure, but distrust lingers. Russia and China’s passivity forces rethinking. Iran must either strike a balance or face harsher confrontation.

4



**Larijani in Lebanon:** His visit may pave the way for US talks, linking nuclear and regional issues. It also seeks to align Hezbollah and Iraq’s militias with governments to ease disputes before negotiations.