

# Iran in a Week

**Iran’s decision to skip the Sharm El-Sheikh summit on the Palestine-Israel ceasefire goes beyond symbolic or ideological posturing. “Reformists” saw the absence as a missed chance for dialogue and regional engagement, while “fundamentalists” dismissed the summit as a farce tied to foreign agendas. However, this divergence is driven by deeper strategic calculations.**

**Tehran aims to avoid confrontations that could weaken its regional standing or complicate future negotiations with global powers. It also seeks to sidestep forums where its influence might appear limited, especially when compared to stronger regional players like Saudi Arabia. Participation could also have exposed Iran to pressure over past US initiatives and portrayed it as**

**operating within an external political framework — contrary to the narrative promoted by “hardliners.” Ultimately, the decision signals Tehran’s preference for indirect influence through secondary interests, reflecting pragmatism and a desire to avoid symbolic moves that could backfire — internally or across its regional spheres of influence.**

## News

### Politics:



**Parliamentary National Security Committee Member Salar Velayatmadar:** “We were ready to negotiate with America in New York, but America refused.”



**Supreme Council of Cyberspace Member Ezzatollah Zarghami:** “At present, some officials don’t own mobile phones and their whereabouts are unknown.”



**Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baghaei:** “We remain committed to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, but we will strengthen our combat capabilities.”



**Baghaei:** “We have no plans to communicate or consult with the three European countries. Resolution 2231 must expire on schedule.”

### Security and Military:



**National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Member Bakhshayesh Ardestani:** “The supreme leader has lifted restrictions on missile range.”



**Former Deputy Head of IRGC Intelligence Brigadier General Mohammad Hassan Tolaei:** “We possess astonishing weapons that we will unveil if the enemy makes a mistake.”



**Former Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani:** “To close the Strait of Hormuz means resorting to the final option, but we haven’t reached that stage yet.”



**Shamkhani:** “I wish I had considered building a nuclear bomb in the 1990s. If I could go back, I would definitely pursue nuclear weapons.”

### The Region and the World:



The US Department of Commerce has imposed sanctions on 29 companies in China, Türkiye and the UAE for supporting Iran’s allies.



The US State Department has offered a \$15 million reward for information on two individuals linked to the Iranian company Beh Joule Pars.



**Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov:** “The snapback mechanism was a ‘legal trap,’ and we didn’t object to it because it was coordinated between Mohammad Javad Zarif and John Kerry.”

### Economy:



**Parliamentary Planning and Budget Committee Member Fereydoun Hemmati:** “Acceptance of the CFT is one of the main demands of Russia and China to continue cooperation with us.”



**Iranian Parliament Research Center:** Economic growth during the first half of the Iranian year (March-September) was negative.



After six years, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has officially invited the head of Iran’s Financial Intelligence Unit to negotiate in Spain.

### Society and Culture:



**President of Sharif University of Technology:** “Cooperation with 26 professors has ceased due to migration. Their departure means losing 130 academic papers annually.”



**Deputy Health Minister Alireza Raisi:** “25% of Iranians suffer from psychological disorders.”



**Mehdi Karroubi, one of the leaders of the 2009 protests:** “The condition of prisons in the Islamic Republic is disgraceful.”

## Editorials

1



### Caught Between Illusion and Conspiracy

The Iranian people are trapped between internal delusions and external threats. Officials must take responsibility instead of deflecting blame. The renewed focus on the hijab is seen as a distraction from corruption and mismanagement.

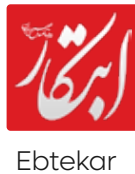
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### Zeros Removed, Inflation Remains

Removing four zeros from the currency will not curb inflation or signal stability. It is a costly move that ignores deeper economic problems.

3



### Political Motives Behind Ministerial Interrogations

Some MPs are using ministerial questioning to settle political scores rather than address public issues. The push to oust President Pezeshkian’s ministers reflects partisan interests, not reform.

4



### Why Students Are Falling Behind

Academic decline in Iranian schools stems from systemic issues: weak curricula, economic hardship and poor mental health. Fixing it requires holistic reform and treating education as a human-centered process.