

# Iran in a Week

Iran-Russia relations oscillate between cold realism and calculated alliance, reflecting two countries driven by pragmatism over ideology. Their cooperation is rooted in mutual need rather than trust, and shaped by circumstance rather than principle. While former President Hassan Rouhani claimed ties with Moscow and Beijing reached a strategic level during his tenure, his criticism of state media’s “falsehoods” reveals internal Iranian disputes over the

alliance’s true value. MP Mostafa Kavakebian recalled Russia’s past support for UN sanctions on Iran, highlighting selective political memory. Meanwhile, MP Amir Hossein Sabeti emphasized extensive military cooperation with Moscow and Beijing, noting their lack of restrictions on arming Iran — though this remains transactional, not principled. Weapons serve as tools of influence and deterrence, aligning with Moscow’s regional strategy

against the West. Russian Ambassador Alexey Yurievich Dedov struck a more diplomatic tone, rejecting the formation of a sanctions committee against Iran and expressing optimism about Iran-Syria normalization. This reflects Russia’s strategy of “calculated mediation” to maintain its Middle East foothold. Ultimately, Tehran-Moscow relations are defined by mutual interest, pragmatism and underlying mistrust.

## News

### Politics:



**Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei:** “Cooperation with Iran is impossible as long as America continues to support the cursed Zionist entity, maintains military bases in the region, and interferes in its affairs.”



**Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi:** “We will not negotiate with America over zero enrichment or missile capabilities.”



**MP Mohammad Bagheri:** “We did not shoot down an F-35, did not capture a pilot, and did not discover a drone factory — these were all lies from official media.”



**Advisor to the Supreme Leader Mohammad Javad Larijani:** “We can build a nuclear bomb in less than two weeks. But we certainly do not want that.”



**National Security Council Secretary Ali Larijani:** “Some politicians still fail to grasp the sensitivity of the current situation, and when an incident occurs, they quickly engage in disputes and stir up the country’s atmosphere.”

### Security and Military:



**IRGC Advisor Hossein Taeb:** “What Generation Z demands today in Iran is more missiles and attacks on Israel.”



**MP Kamran Ghazanfari:** “People are waiting for the day Rouhani is hung by the noose.”



**Fa'ezeh Rafsanjani:** “My father’s death was orchestrated by internal forces, not Russia or Israel.”



**Quds Force Commander Rahim Noei Aghdam:** “We will target the heart of America with intercontinental missiles with a range of 23,000 kilometers.”

### The Region and the World:



**Prince Reza Pahlavi:** “All citizens must prepare for the final battle while observing security precautions.”



**US President Donald Trump:** “The key to peace in the Middle East was destroying Iran’s potential nuclear capability.”



**US Intelligence Chief Tulsi Gabbard:** “Iran remains America’s top security concern.”

### Economy:



**Economist Morteza Afqeh:** “It’s not surprising that even the most optimistic estimates place Iran’s poverty rate between 30% and 36%.”



**Economist Ali Ghanbari:** “Inflation is expected to exceed 50% by the end of the Iranian year (March 21, 2026).”



**Budget Committee Head Hadi Ghavami:** “60% of the state’s resources have not been realized this year.”

### Society and Culture:



**Health Committee Member:** “Poor groups can no longer afford their medications, which may soon lead to increased strokes, heart attacks and dialysis patients.”



**First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref:** “We must organize the water issue with public participation and be honest with the people.”



**Former IRGC Commander Hassan Hassan Nia:** “The punishment for rejecting hijab is execution.”

## Editorials



**1** جُمُورِیِ اِسْلامی  
Jomhuri Eslami

**Shrinking Tables, Endless Conflicts**  
As many Iranians struggle under crushing economic hardship and worsening food insecurity, key decisions remain slow, contradictory or paralyzed. Officials seem more invested in factional disputes and score-settling than in addressing citizens’ daily suffering. Instead of reforming decision-making structures, debates continue to revolve around East versus West, America versus Russia.



**2** آرمان  
(Arman Melli Newspaper)

**Iran and Developments in Sudan**  
Russia initially backed groups opposing Sudan’s army but shifted its stance as the situation evolved. This realignment brought Iran and Russia closer, creating shared interests in the region. Iran may be seeking to expand its security reach and establish new strategic leverage.



**3** ستارِ سُبْح  
Setar-e Sobh Newspaper

**Return of Ration Coupons and Structural Poverty**  
Official data shows 77 million Iranians — about 85% of the population — receive direct financial aid. Removing three categories from this support excludes 27 million people, more than the population of some neighboring countries. The return of rationing mechanisms signals declining welfare policies and rising hidden poverty.



**4** جهانِ سَنات  
Jahan-e Sanat Newspaper

**Empty Pockets, Loud Boasts**  
Iranians use the phrase “big boast, empty pockets” to describe those who pretend to be generous but lack substance. Experts say recent Iranian governments resemble this, handing out budgets freely during planning but hitting financial dead ends mid-year. The gap between fiscal bravado and actual resources is increasingly exposed.