

Iran in a Week

Iranian political rhetoric has sharpened in recent days, projecting confidence in the establishment’s ability to manage the “Axis of Resistance” amid overlapping domestic strains and regional pressures. At home, deep economic and social challenges have pushed Tehran to revive security narratives,

with commanders such as Major General Mohammad Pakpour emphasizing the Basij’s role in maintaining stability. These messages aim to reassure the public that the establishment’s security apparatus remains effective despite claims of weakening authority. Regionally, Tehran seeks to reassert the axis’

resilience after assassinations and Israeli strikes on key figures in Lebanon, Syria and Iraq. Statements by Sadegh Amoli Larijani and Ali Akbar Velayati highlight Iran’s continued leadership and its determination to prevent rivals from casting the axis as fragmented amid current regional turmoil.

News

Politics:



Deputy Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Hossein Entezami: “It was by God’s grace that the people did not take to the streets at the same time as the Israeli attack!”



Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baghaei: “Our embassy is still operating in Venezuela.”

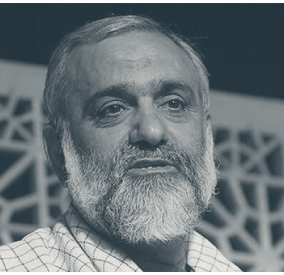


The supreme leader’s adviser on international affairs Ali Akbar Velayati: “Hezbollah’s presence is more essential for Lebanon than daily bread.”



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi: “We are ready to negotiate, but the other side is not.”

Security and Military:



Advisor to IRGC Commander Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Naqdi: “We will not end the next war without the complete destruction of the Zionist regime.”



Advisor to Iran’s Armed Forces Chief of Staff Brigadier General Fathollah Jafari: “A large part of the operational capability of the Zionist entity was put out of service during the imposed 12-Day War.”



Expediency Discernment Council Member Mohsen Rezaei: “During the 12-Day War, we were striking 80 enemy targets with a single missile.”



Deputy Justice Minister for Human Rights and International Affairs Askar Jalalian: “2% of Iranians living abroad have security files.”

The Region and the World:



The Australian government announces the designation of the IRGC as a terrorist organization under the Criminal Code Amendment (State Sponsors of Terrorism) Act 2025.



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio: “Venezuela has turned into a base for Iran and Lebanon’s Hezbollah.”



Institute for Science and International Security: “Tehran continues its nuclear program at the remaining sites.”

Economy:



Director-General of Iran’s Tax Affairs Organization Mohammad Hadi Sobhaniyan: “Iran’s tax revenues have now reached 5.5 times the country’s oil revenues.”



Iranian MP Mojtaba Yousefi: “Citizens’ purchasing power has dropped by 200% over the past five years.”



Statistical Center of Iran: In November 2025, the annual inflation rate for households nationwide reached 40.4%, an increase of 1.5 percentage points compared to the previous month.

Society and Culture:



Member of Parliament’s Industry and Mining Committee Mostafa Pourdeghan: “We call on people to endure under these conditions, yet we see some officials – or their children – leaving the country under strange pretexts.”



Head of the Safety Committee at Tehran’s City Council Mehdi Babaei: “A 20% rise in deaths within a single month is an indicator of a catastrophic air-pollution situation.”



Iranian MP Morteza Mahmoudi: “Raising gasoline prices burdens the rich and the affluent, but it breaks the backs of the poor and lower classes.”

Editorials

1



(Arman Melli Newspaper)

Diplomacy and the Way Out of the Deadlock
Iran’s options have sharply narrowed under sanctions after the activation of the snapback mechanism. Limited dialogue with Europeans and mediators who may reopen a channel to Trump constitutes the only remaining space for movement.

2



Setar-e Sobh Newspaper

An Environmental Hell of Our Own Making
Official data show 54,000 pollution deaths and nearly 20,000 road fatalities last year. Tehran has seen only a handful of clean-air days and recently became the world’s most polluted city.

3



Jomhuri Eslami

The Suffering of the Power Struggle
Despite real threats, political actors remain consumed by internal disputes. As citizens battle rising prices, politicians trade accusations over issues like the “white internet,” testing public patience.

4



Hammihan

Weak Deterrence
Rouhani’s recent remarks stress reassessing national power. Iran currently lacks broad regional deterrence, partly due to ineffective, reactive policies, reflected in the Foreign Ministry’s limited action.