

Iran in a Week

At a pivotal moment in the Middle East, the United States and Iran are weighing diplomacy against confrontation. A spokeswoman for President Donald Trump said diplomacy is his preferred path, though military force remains an option. Iranian Foreign Minister

Abbas Araghchi said a deal is possible if talks come first. Meanwhile, a visible US military buildup suggests Washington is preparing for a conflict that could extend beyond nuclear sites to missiles and allied militias across the region. Iran has strengthened

its defenses and deterrence and could escalate if it feels threatened. Time is tightening calculations. While US power is decisive, only sustained diplomacy can prevent a broader, costly regional war with unpredictable consequences.

News

Politics:



Former Iranian President Mohammad Khatami expressed hope that both the United States and Iran would recognize what he described as dangerous Israeli perceptions and motives, and avoid falling into a conspiracy whose flames could consume the world.



Iranian journalist Mashaallah Shamsolvaezin: "Mousa Shaker — a Moroccan Jew and friend working in Israeli journalism — told me that a 400-meter street in Bat Yam, largely inhabited by air force officers, was destroyed by an Iranian missile."



Expediency Discernment Council Member Majid Ansari: "Has the world united against us? We must reflect; perhaps we acted in ways that turned it against us. Part of the global consensus may stem from internal behavior and decisions, requiring rational steps to reduce hostility."



Abbas Babi: "Iran has prepared special tactics and weapons to respond to any potential attack and will turn the conflict regional."



Veteran diplomat and former Foreign Ministry official for Syrian affairs **Mohammad Reza Raouf Sheibani** has been appointed as Iran's ambassador to Lebanon, succeeding **Mojtaba Amani**, injured in the pager incident.

Security and Military:



IRGC Intelligence Chief Majid Khademi: "During the January events, Western agencies allegedly used ISIS-style methods to brainwash youths and push them into violence."



Iranian army Commander Amir Hatami: "The enemy is pursuing a plan dubbed 'strategic attrition.' We may face further conspiracies, but will respond with a decisive, forceful reply."



The IRGC Navy unveiled the Sayyad G-3 air defense missile during the Smart Control of the Strait of Hormuz drill in the Strait of Hormuz.



National Security Committee Member Brigadier Hayat Moghaddam: "If war erupts, a US ship could be sunk in the Gulf of Oman or seized."

The Region and the World:



The Netherlands summoned the Iranian ambassador after a Dutch diplomat's bag was seized at Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport.



UN Special Rapporteur **Mai Sato** called for clarification on the fate of detainees and those killed during the January protests.



The US federal prosecution said three Iranian engineers based in Silicon Valley were arrested for allegedly stealing trade secrets and transferring them to Iran.

Economy:



Iranian Member of Parliament Mojtaba Yousefi: "There are concerns over implementing the 2026 budget. Our main goal was to prioritize people's livelihoods."



University Professor Farshad Momeni (addressing Iranian officials): "The prevalence of working past retirement due to poverty signals a real economic crisis."



Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad: "Oil cooperation between Iran and the United States is possible."

Society and Culture:



Statistical Center of Iran: Births have fallen from 1,116,000 to 980,000 over the past four years.



Several Iranian universities have seen violent student protests and clashes between anti-government and regime-supporting students.



Parliamentary Education Committee spokesman: "On average nationwide, nearly 17% of those involved in riots and protests were teenagers."

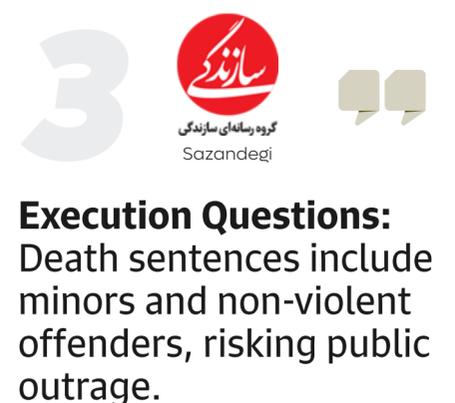
Editorials



1 **Speak to People Without Barriers:** Iran faces military threats, regional rivalries, sanctions and media rumors, affecting society's morale.



2 **Wages and Poverty:** Rising wages lag behind soaring inflation; over 30 million Iranians live in extreme poverty, lacking basic food, shelter and necessities. The segment is growing, nearing half the population.



3 **Execution Questions:** Death sentences include minors and non-violent offenders, risking public outrage.



4 **Current Situation:** The US arms buildup may precede war; indicators suggest conflict could erupt soon.