

# Iran in a Week

Iranian media coverage suggests that Tehran is shifting from managing the war to shaping the post-war order, seeking to turn what it portrays as military and political gains into lasting regional and international arrangements. At the center of this effort is the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, which Iranian officials present as evidence that Washington has recognized Iran's

resilience and bargaining power, while stressing that the agreement does not affect Iran's missile program or its regional allies. At the same time, Tehran continues to tie diplomatic progress to the strength of its military deterrence. Militarily, Iranian rhetoric still emphasizes regional pressure tools, especially the Strait of Hormuz, and treats the agreement as a conditional truce rather than a final

settlement, requiring continued military readiness. Economically, Iran remains burdened by weak growth, financial strain and a widening deficit, increasing its reliance on unfrozen assets and new trade channels. Regionally, Tehran is increasingly highlighting Saudi Arabia and other regional powers as partners in building a security framework less dependent on outside guarantees.

## News


### Politics:



**Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei:** "The direct negotiations that will take place in the future will never mean accepting the enemy's vision."



**President Masoud Pezeshkian from Islamabad:** "We will not negotiate with anyone at all over our defensive capabilities."



**Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei:** "We have held no meeting with Grossi, and we have no plan whatsoever to allow the agency to conduct inspections of the damaged nuclear facilities."



**Deputy Energy Minister Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi:** "Russian nuclear specialists will return to Iran soon."




**Parliamentary National Security Committee Spokesman Ebrahim Rezaei:** "IAEA inspections of nuclear facilities are in direct contradiction with the explicit text of the law suspending cooperation with the agency."



**Iranian Vice President for Executive Affairs Mohammad Ja'far Ghaempanah:** "The Strait of Hormuz is the most important asset we possess, and it can no longer be neutralized."


### Security and Military:



**IRGC Commander-in-Chief Brig. Gen. Esmail Qaani:** "You criminal and terrorist Zionist soldiers, if you do not withdraw from southern Lebanon voluntarily, the epic of 2000 will be repeated."



**An Iranian military source:** "Only a limited number of ships can pass through the Strait of Hormuz each day, and that number will vary depending on the circumstances."



**Head of the Army's Center for Strategic Studies and Research Brig. Gen. Amir Ahmad Reza Pourdastan:** "We are prepared to carry out preemptive and surprise operations."



**IRGC Deputy Commander for Political Affairs Brig. Gen. Yadollah Javani:** "The United States must understand that it cannot keep providing excuses for the Zionist regime."

### Society and Culture:



Millions of customers in limbo as service disruptions hit three Iranian banks.



**HRANA:** 127 executions were carried out in Iran in June.




**Karaj Friday prayer leader Hosseini Hamedani:** "America is our chief enemy."

### Economy:



**Iranian Central Bank Governor Abdolnasser Hemmati:** "Under the signed agreements, we are not obligated to purchase agricultural inputs from the United States."



**Economy Minister Ali Madani Zadeh:** "Even if war had not broken out, we were already facing a budget deficit estimated at hundreds of trillions of tomans, and now conditions have become even more difficult."



**Iran's Statistical Center:** Iran's economic growth rate during the last Iranian year [which ended on March 21, 2026] stood at 0.2% including oil, while it recorded -0.3% excluding oil.

### The Region and the World:



**US Treasury Department:** "We have issued a license allowing Iran to sell its crude oil, petrochemical products, and petroleum derivatives until August 21, 2026."



**IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi:** "Inspections of the nuclear facilities are explicitly provided for in the agreement, and they will be carried out."



**French police:** A protest gathering by supporters of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization has been canceled because of the possibility of clashes.

## Editorials



**1** **What Should the Public Expect?**  
Under the weight of intense pressure on Iranians, the Iranian republic as a whole has come to see the need to reach an understanding with its most formidable enemies. What Iranians want today is a path that restores the possibility of a normal life — one in which they can work, live with dignity and rely on the value of their labor and income. They do not want such a breakthrough to come at the expense of losing key gains, but they hope the path ahead will spare them the nightmare of a return to war. What the public clearly does not want is a return to war — or even to the "neither war nor peace" limbo — because destruction and prolonged uncertainty are both deadly poisons.



**2** **Fragile Peace and Iran's Opportunity**  
The signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding comes at the center of an unstable and shifting geopolitical order. It should therefore be seen less as the end of a crisis than as the start of a new phase of uncertainty. The future of the agreement will depend not on the signing itself, but on the quality of governance that follows. If Iran succeeds in linking security to development, and development to public satisfaction, the deal could help the country move beyond war, open the way to sustainable stability, strengthen national resilience and enhance Iran's regional and international influence. Such stability would rest above all on public trust and effective governance.



**3** **When Spending Rises and Income Stands Still**  
The reduction of subsidies for eight strategic goods — household gas and electricity, industrial gas and electricity, wheat, medicine, gasoline and diesel — can be seen as one of the main drivers of inflation this year. The result is a decline in household welfare and purchasing power, as living costs rise without wages keeping pace. In such an environment, business profit margins shrink, forcing some firms to cut investment, reduce operations or leave the market altogether.



**4** **Leaving the Gray Zone**  
If the current negotiations produce an outcome similar to the nuclear deal — where some sanctions are lifted and others merely suspended — a gray zone will emerge and the same problems will persist. The better course, therefore, is for Iran to pursue a full settlement of its dispute with the United States in exchange for a firm US commitment to lift all sanctions, as pledged in the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding. Otherwise, political ambiguity and economic stagnation will continue, and a later return of broad political and military tensions cannot be ruled out.