

Iran in a Week

The United States, under President Donald Trump and in coordination with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has maintained a “neither war nor peace” posture toward Iran and its regional proxies nearly six months after the confrontation began on February 28. The conflict has evolved into economic and cognitive warfare, including a naval blockade and media and intelligence

operations aimed at destabilizing Iranian society. Yet signs suggest a new military operation could be developing, particularly as Washington and Tehran increasingly see a return to the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding as unlikely. More significantly, Iranian officials are debating a shift from a defensive to an offensive posture. IRGC Brig. Gen. Yadollah Javani said Iran’s military

actions could become offensive, while some voices reportedly advocate a preemptive strike against the United States. Meanwhile, Israel’s Institute for National Security Studies warned that Iran could abandon its nuclear-threshold status and pursue an actual nuclear weapon after the war. The Hill also warned Tehran could consider plutonium-based weapons.

News

Politics:



Former President Mohammad Khatami: “The various pressures from enemies, and strategic mistakes and structural problems have gradually widened the gap between the people and the authorities, until a sharp divide emerged between supporters of the authorities and the regime, and a society whose economic, security, political and cultural conditions are deteriorating day by day.”



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, speaking about his recent meeting with the supreme leader: “Someone who can sit and discuss matters for seven to eight hours cannot be suffering from any health problems.”



Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi: “But we did not have anything called a ceasefire that could now be extended; rather, we had an end to the war.”



Gholam-Reza Mesbahi-Moghadam, a member of the Expediency Discernment Council: “We must understand that no president in our country can act contrary to the supreme leader and his positions.”



Abu al-Fadl Zohrehvand, a member of the Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Committee: “Our foreign minister lacks the necessary competence.”



Mohammad Mokhber, an adviser to the supreme leader: “There is no doubt that the supreme leader’s decisive strategy of shifting Iran toward an offensive war if its conditions are not met will change the balance of power in the world.”

Security and Military:



Ibrahim Azizi, chairman of Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Committee: “The US president should be concerned about his own security instead of continuing his endless threats regarding the Strait of Hormuz.”



Army Commander Major General Amir Hatami: “If any Iranian manages to arrest or kill an American military aggressor, they will receive a \$30,000 reward from the Iranian people. The amount will be doubled for women.”



Brigadier General Alireza Sheikh, deputy army commander for executive affairs: “Everyone knows, and foreign intelligence agencies have also acknowledged, that more than 75% of Iran’s missile and drone capabilities remain intact and are ready.”



Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC): Tehran has informed Ankara, Baghdad, Doha and Riyadh that any Syrian military adventure in Lebanon will turn into a broader regional confrontation on Syrian territory, and that Iran’s missile response will include strikes on more than 100 strategic targets, including the Syrian presidential palace.

Society and Culture:



Iranian Deputy Health Minister Alireza Raisi: “The country is heading toward population aging.”



Article 6 of the Parliament’s new law, titled “Combating the Influence of Foreign Intelligence Agencies, Governments, or Institutions in the Country:” A prison sentence of six months to two years shall apply for giving media interviews, participating in discussions, or engaging in any form of communication with U.S. media outlets or media outlets funded by the United States.



Abbas Abadi, deputy director of nursing at Iran’s Ministry of Health: “We are facing a shortage of 100,000 nurses in the country.”

Economy:



Deputy Head of Trade Services at the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran Mohammad Sadeq Qannadzadeh: “The value of Iran’s non-oil trade declined by about 30% over the four months from April to July 2026 as a result of the war and disruptions to maritime transport routes.”



Saqab Esfahani, deputy chief of staff to the president: “We are facing a daily gasoline shortage of 14 million liters.”



Iranian lawmaker Mostafa Nakhaei: “Fuel is officially and legally smuggled from some of the country’s borders.”

The Region and the World:



Canada has imposed sanctions on the newly appointed chief of staff of Iran’s armed forces and four others for their roles in military, legal and media activities that undermine international peace, security and stability.



French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot: “Two Iranian diplomats will be expelled from France in the coming days.”



Canada has revoked the visas of 239 people because of links between the visa holders and senior officials of the Iranian republic and its government institutions.

Editorials



1 **آرمان**
(Arman Melli Newspaper)

The Smart Use of the Strait of Hormuz Card
As an Iranian, I am pleased that we are managing the Strait of Hormuz under Iranian control, but we must take advantage of these circumstances. We have now only closed the Strait of Hormuz, and the blockade remains in place, but we are not negotiating any deal over this strategic point. We have settled for the satisfaction of having retained control of the Strait of Hormuz and preventing the passage of oil and non-oil shipments. But the question is: how long can this situation continue? We must recognize that the strategic value of the Strait of Hormuz is declining day by day. Kuwait wants to transport its oil through Iraq and Türkiye to Europe. The UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain are doing the same, and the necessary measures must be taken before it is too late. It is worth considering that when we possess such a geopolitical and geoeconomic tool, why should we not use it? Let us sit down and negotiate so that sanctions are lifted, frozen funds are released and we act in accordance with the memorandum of understanding.



2 **سیاست روز**
Siasat-e Rooz

What Is the Government’s Plan for These Difficult Days?
The people may not have the ability to make foreign policy decisions, but they feel their costs directly in the markets, at their tables, and through the prices of rent, medicine, cars and food, as well as the erosion of their purchasing power. It is therefore natural for them to expect the government to announce its plan before the economic shock affects their lives and livelihoods. The government should clearly and unambiguously tell the people what roadmap it has prepared if oil exports decline, access to foreign currency becomes more difficult, transportation and import costs rise and a new wave of inflation occurs. A population that feels there is no plan will inevitably become anxious and fearful about the future, even under normal circumstances.



3 **جمهوری اسلامی**
Jomhuri Eslami

Gasoline, the Common Ground Between Patronage and Livelihoods
The most important obstacle to economic reform in Iran is the formation of a network in which “patronage” has become intertwined with “livelihoods.” At one end of this network are monopolistic producers and rent-seeking interest groups that benefit from cheap foreign currency, preferential banking facilities and closed markets. At the other end are broad segments of economically exhausted citizens — such as taxi drivers whose livelihoods have become dependent on fuel prices. The subtle point here is that major interest groups use these livelihood-dependent segments as “human and behavioral shields.” They know that any price adjustment will directly affect people’s livelihoods, and this “social cost” is the best tool for preserving their rent-seeking benefits. That is why whenever the issue of gasoline prices is raised, the debate centers on the livelihoods of the middle and lower classes, while discussion of the profits of industrial monopolists who have benefited from this situation for years disappears entirely.



4 **آرمان امروز**
Arman Emrooz

The Small Details of Life and Social Resilience
Talking about small everyday behaviors may seem unimportant, like a luxury, or even inappropriate under the current circumstances, as the shadow of war hangs heavily over Iranian society. At a time when the minds of Iranians are occupied with news of war, insecurity, death, migration, poverty and an uncertain future, is there still room to talk about a shopkeeper’s smile, a repair technician’s professionalism, a doctor’s kindness or a young person’s respect for the elderly? Aren’t these small and marginal matters? The truth is that war is a major and devastating phenomenon that cannot be denied. But social life is not harmed only by major events; recurring acts of indifference, irresponsibility, broken promises, disrespect and a lack of kindness can sometimes gradually drain a society from within.