

Iran in a Week

Recent developments call for renewed scrutiny of the strategic and intelligence blunder during the US- Israeli strikes on Tehran in the 40-day war, particularly the targeting of relatively moderate Iranian politician Ali Larijani. His replacement by former Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Commander Major General Mohsen Rezaei has transformed the Secretariat of the Supreme National Security Council into a potential arena for rivalry between

the Office of the Supreme Leader and the presidency, under IRGC influence. Although President Masoud Pezeshkian formally appoints the council's secretary, Rezaei's appointment ultimately reflected the supreme leader's influence following Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr's resignation. Both Zolghadr and Rezaei belong to the IRGC and the supreme leader's inner circle. Subsequent decrees restructuring the armed forces and Basij, including the

merger of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters with the General Staff, further strengthened the IRGC's old guard and emphasized a more offensive military structure. These changes, issued shortly after the signing of the Makkah Joint Defense Agreement between Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye, may carry wider strategic implications, particularly amid "hardliner" criticism of Pezeshkian's "weak diplomacy."

News

Politics:



President Pezeshkian appoints Rezaei as secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, replacing Zolghadr.



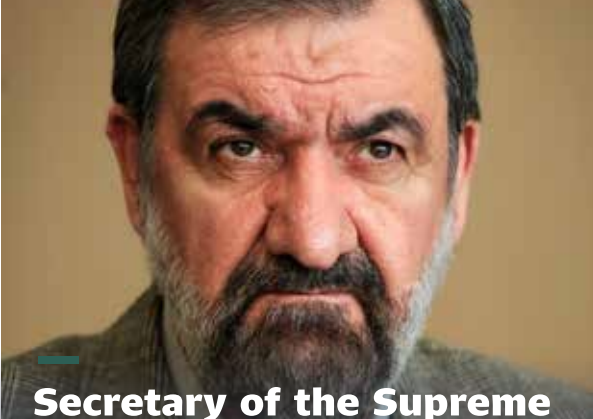
Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei issues a decree appointing Zolghadr, the former secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, as his political adviser.



Secretary-General of the Iranian Hezbollah Party Ayatollah Mohammad Bagher Kharrazi: "The only way to save the country is to build a nuclear bomb and detonate it, so that they understand and say that it is an extremely insane act."



Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi: "A potential agreement with Oman on maritime routes does not mean reopening the Strait of Hormuz."



Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Rezaei: "Iran's message is clear: the Strait of Hormuz will not be reopened unless the United States ends the war and blockade, releases Iran's frozen assets, and the war ends throughout the region, including in Lebanon and Gaza."



Spokesman for the Parliament's Presiding Board Abbas Goudarzi: "Sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz is more important to Iran than the nuclear issue."

Security and Military:



Iran's supreme leader appoints six senior commanders to the General Staff of the armed forces, the IRGC and the Basij Resistance Organization; Major General Ali Abdollahi as chief of staff of the armed forces and Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi as IRGC commander-in-chief.



IRGC spokesman Brigadier General Hossein Mohabbi: "For us, the Strait of Hormuz is a geography of battle, not a strategy. Our current strategy is to maintain control of the strait until the enemy accepts all our conditions."



Ministry of Intelligence: 21 Mossad agents and four members of armed gangs arrested in Kerman Province.



The Media Center of the Sistan and Balochistan Police announced the killing of a Sunni police officer named Noorollah Naroui during an attack carried out by armed men on a police vehicle.

Society and Culture:



Iranian MP Mohammad-Taqi Naqad-Ali: "The people ask us what the Parliament's plan is for improving their livelihoods, and under the current circumstances, we have no answer to this question. The Parliament has deteriorated, and MPs are no longer aware of the country's key and important issues."



Secretary-General of Iran's Hezbollah Party Ayatollah Mohammad Bagher Kharrazi: "I issue a fatwa calling for the killing of women who do not wear the hijab."



Tehran Friday prayer leader Ali Akbari: "Some people receive dollars from abroad in order to appear in public wearing clothing that is socially unconventional."

Economy:



President Pezeshkian: "The dollars have dwindled. Last year, we imported \$6 billion worth of petrol, but this year we have no money. We are under blockade and cannot import petrol."



Iran's Statistical Center: In the spring of this year, nearly 800,000 people joined the economically inactive population, bringing the number of people who are neither working nor looking for work to more than 39 million.



Iran Rahbar, head of the Tehran Association of Real Estate Developers: "Following the US and Israeli attacks on Iran, the prices of construction materials in the country have risen by 100%."

The Region and the World:



Malaysia's defense minister announces that his country is prepared to review the framework for defense cooperation between Iran and Malaysia.



The US Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) announces the lifting of sanctions imposed on three Iran-linked entities.



Data released by maritime analytics firm Kpler on Friday, August 7: Only six oil tankers have passed through this strategic waterway during the current week.

Editorials

1  Jahan-e Sanat Newspaper

Are We Facing a Deadlock?
Trump's statements and posts over the past day or two indicate that he lacks a military plan and is focusing on increasing economic pressure. If we are indeed heading toward a deadlock, Iranian officials should carefully calculate what measures they can take to withstand a naval blockade that could last at least six months. Despite some expectations at home, oil prices, 10-year US Treasury yields and returns on the S&P 500 remain far from crisis levels. Brent crude stood at around \$85 a barrel yesterday, Monday, despite the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the partial closure of Bab al-Mandab. Our officials must also take these factors into account in their calculations.

2  Arman Emrooz

Misery Index Hits Record High
The misery index reached 75.1% between June 22 and July 21 this year, worsening by 16.9 percentage points compared with last March. This rate is an unprecedented record in the Iranian economy. The misery index reflects the extent of the economic pressures weighing on households, showing simultaneously the degree to which prices have risen and the pressure that unemployment places on individuals. Analysis of the index shows that the economic misery rate is severe in many provinces, with the sharp rise in prices, coupled with increasing unemployment, placing significant pressure on households.

3  Hammihan

Raising Petrol Prices Is Not a Solution to the Deficit
These days, the issue of raising petrol prices is once again being discussed on the grounds of the imbalance between fuel production and consumption, a matter that has caused widespread concern among the public. There is no doubt that the petrol imbalance is a reality and that continuing along the current path places heavy pressure on the country's foreign-currency and budgetary resources. However, economic policymaking is not based on a single variable; the timing of implementation, social conditions, economic repercussions and security requirements are equally important. From this perspective, raising petrol prices while the country remains engaged in war, under external pressure and chronic inflation, would not merely be an economic decision but one carrying far-reaching social and security consequences.

4  Kayhan newspaper

Stock Market: Opportunity or Trap?
The dollar value of the Iranian stock market has fallen to around \$98 billion, meaning that the total market capitalization of a country with a population of more than 90 million is roughly equivalent to Google's annual net profit. This is not merely a comparison but a true picture of the Iranian economy: an economy shrinking day by day while officials continue to speak of major achievements. Some see this situation as a golden investment opportunity, arguing that the Iranian stock market is one of the cheapest equity markets in the world. But a fundamental question remains: if the stock market is so attractive, why do large pools of capital still merely watch from the sidelines? The answer lies in economic policy. Capital does not flee low prices; it flees instability.