

Iran in a Week

Despite mounting signs of a potential return to US-Iran military confrontation, diplomatic options remain open. President Donald Trump's decision to cut short his Camp David weekend and return to the White House has fueled concerns over escalation, while the crisis' repercussions around the Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab straits could create incentives for negotiations. Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council

Mohsen Rezaei outlined seven conditions for opening talks, while Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said war and negotiations should proceed simultaneously. President Masoud Pezeshkian also stressed the strong interest in cooperation from neighboring countries, signaling another potential avenue for de-escalation. Yet Iranian parliamentary statements have simultaneously pointed toward escalation. Deputy Speaker

Hamid Reza Babaei called for attacks on US economic strongholds, while National Security Committee Chairman Ebrahim Azizi raised the prospect of withdrawal from the NPT. Hassan Ghashghavi said US behavior could justify changing Iran's nuclear doctrine, while Kamran Ghazanfari warned that threats to the Iranian republic's survival could prompt the supreme leader's intervention over nuclear weapons.

News

Politics:



Former Parliament Speaker Mehdi Karroubi, in a message to President Pezeshkian: "For lasting peace, you should meet with Trump if circumstances permit."



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Major General Mohsen Rezaei: "Tehran remains committed to its stated position that it is not seeking to acquire nuclear weapons, but the future is unclear."



Political adviser to Iran's supreme leader Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr: "Iranian fighters will not open the Strait of Hormuz until the criminal Trump and butcher Netanyahu are brought down. This is the first stage of the Iranian people's revenge."



Tehran Friday Prayer Leader Hajj Ali Akbari: "We are now witnessing Ansar Allah's control of the Bab al-Mandab, and Bab al-Mandab has joined the Strait of Hormuz. Unless all of the supreme leader's conditions are met, there will be no negotiations."



Currently detained opposition political activist Abolfazl Ghadyani: "The media and human rights organizations must confront the contradictions and fabrications of the propaganda system led by the murderous leaders of the Islamic Republic."



Expediency Discernment Council member Mohammad Reza Bahonar: "I do not believe that a serious military war will break out, or that they will bomb Tehran or Isfahan, for example."

Security and Military:



Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Spokesman Brigadier General Hossein Mohibi: "There is absolutely no communication between the IRGC and the United States."



Adviser to the IRGC commander-in-chief Brigadier General Ramadan Sharif: "Saddam's fate awaits Trump and Netanyahu."



Kamran Ghazanfari, a member of the Iranian Parliament's Internal Affairs Committee: "If circumstances change in such a way that we feel there is a threat to the survival of the Islamic Republic, there is a possibility that the supreme leader could intervene regarding nuclear weapons."



Iran's Supreme Court announced the execution of Hossein Badran in Isfahan Province on charges of providing the Mossad with information about missile sites in Isfahan.

Society and Culture:



Sunni imam and Friday prayer leader in Zahedan Molavi Abdolhamid Esmail-Zehi: "Most of the recent death sentences are politically motivated."



The Faculty Council of Shiraz University announced the suspension of all educational, research and administrative activities starting Saturday, September 19, until further notice, in protest against the failure to resolve issues concerning judicial rulings and professors' legal entitlements.



Ahmad Bikdeli, a member of Parliament's Social Affairs Committee, warned of the possibility of protests breaking out due to economic discontent.

Economy:



Deputy Head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran Amir Roshan-Bakhsh Qanbari: "Customs statistics also confirm that during the period from April to August 2025, our trade declined by approximately 25% in both imports and exports."



Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref: "We sincerely apologize to the people, and we feel ashamed given the gap between their income and expenses. There is absolutely no way to make a living if inflation exceeds 60% or 70% this year while we increase salaries by only 20%."



Iranian airline Mahan Air announced that its flights to Oman and Türkiye will be suspended until further notice due to decisions by the aviation authorities of the two countries

The Region and the World:



Türkiye's Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency revoked the operating license of Iran's Bank Mellat branch in Istanbul.



The US State Department announced a reward of up to \$15 million for information leading to the identification and disruption of the IRGC's financial mechanisms and those of its branches, including the Quds Force.



Swedish Justice Minister Gunnar Strömmer: "We are aware that Iran has long engaged in activities that threaten Sweden's security, targeting individuals opposed to the Iranian regime and Jewish interests."

Editorials

1



Setar-e Sobh Newspaper



Five Factors Behind Negative Industrial Growth
According to the Iranian Statistical Center's report on national accounts, the growth rate of the industries and mining sector reached -14.7% in spring 2026. GDP growth stood at -10.1% including oil and -4.6% excluding it. The sector's contraction cannot be attributed to a single factor; the combined effects of war-related pressures, sanctions, energy shortages, weak investment and economic uncertainty all contributed. The challenge for policymakers is to provide transparent data on the scale of the losses and the role played by each factor, then develop a program to restore economic stability. Industry cannot drive employment and economic growth without sustainable energy, secure and reliable investment and predictable access to markets.

2



Jahan-e Sanat Newspaper



The Economy of Fear
Iranians have learned from experience that the dollar can undergo sudden and unpredictable price spikes, while central bank governors' promises to stabilize its exchange rate are futile. As a result, people buy as many dollars as they can to protect their savings from losing value in the national currency. Iranians have witnessed this pattern firsthand: whenever Iranian and US officials fuel tensions, the price of the dollar rises, leading to nationwide price increases and prompting people to buy more out of fear. Thus, since 2018, the "economy of fear" has become an entrenched norm and pattern of behavior among Iranians.

3



Siasat-e Rooz



Hidden Corruption at the Heart of State-Owned Companies: When Losses Become Bonuses
Recent remarks by the head of Iran's judiciary have lifted the veil on a troubling reality within the country's economic structure. The issue may not be unfamiliar to many citizens, but this time it was highlighted by the country's highest judicial official. According to his remarks, more than 300 large and small state-owned companies have combined budgets exceeding the entire national government budget. This figure alone raises a fundamental question: how can a group of state-owned companies receive budgets larger than that of the central government without adequate transparency regarding their performance or profitability and losses? Even more striking is the reference to companies that continue paying bonuses despite operating at a loss.

4



Mardom Salari



The Free Fall of Education
A shocking and disastrous statistic recently published on national university entrance examinations showed that 420,000 students out of 450,000 received negative scores in core and specialized subjects. This is not merely a modest decline in academic performance or a deterioration in statistics; it represents an official indictment and a testament to the collapse in the quality of the country's education system. When public education and Iran's most important institution for developing human potential are placed in the hands of uninformed decision-makers and incompetent administrative circles, the result can only be despair, declining educational standards and a generation lacking specialized skills.