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Iran

Digest

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Iran's Supreme Leader appoints new military commanders and security chief

On 10 August, Iran's new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei made several [new appointments](#) in the country's senior military-security command. Ali Abdollahi was appointed chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, with Kiumars Heidari as his deputy. Abdollahi has been tasked with completing the integration of the General Staff, the armed forces' planning and coordinating body, with Khatam al-Anbiya, its wartime operational headquarters. Iranian analysts have noted that Iran's [speedy response to US strikes](#) on Larak Island on 30 August indicates the ongoing integration to improve coordination between strategic planning and military operations. Ahmad Vahidi, who had been deputy commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) since December 2025 and took command of the Guards after Mohammad Pakpour's assassination on 28 February, was formally confirmed and promoted to major general. Mostafa Izadi was appointed deputy commander of the IRGC. Vahidi was the first commander of the Quds Force from 1988 to 1998, served as defence minister in the Ahmadinejad administration and as Interior Minister in the Raisi administration. The last IRGC Navy commander, Alireza Tangshiri, was killed in Israeli strikes on 26 March. Rear Admiral Ali Azmaei, the commander of the IRGC Navy's Fifth Zone headquartered in Bandar Abbas, who had been running the Guard's Navy since July, was appointed the new IRGC Navy commander. [Hossein Taeb](#), who led the IRGC Intelligence Organisation, which operates in parallel with the intelligence ministry, from its inception in 2009 until June 2022, was appointed as the chief of the Basij paramilitary force. Taeb, a Shiite cleric

with the rank of *hojatoleslam*, had earlier served as Basij commander from July 2008 to October 2009, playing a key role in tackling the mass protests following the controversial presidential election in June 2009. Taeb's new mandate is to build the Basij's "public intelligence network," expand its presence in neighbourhoods, universities and workplaces, and deepen its "resistance" culture. Analysts note that Taeb's return suggests that the new leadership views domestic surveillance and social mobilisation as crucial to the domestic dimension of security amid conflict with the US and Israel. Mohsen Rezaee, the Guards' longest-serving former commander (1981–1997), was appointed secretary of the Supreme National Security Council. Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr, who has served as the secretary of the SNSC since March 2026, was appointed as the Supreme Leader's advisor for political affairs. In a [televised interview](#), Rezaei noted: "The Leader's decision to bring in experienced commanders means that we will certainly apply the lessons we have learned in the next battle." In remarks widely interpreted as an increasing offensive posture by Iran, Rezaei stated that "certainly, changes will be made in the way Iran manages and conducts war, as well as in its diplomatic conduct. The reason is clear: The Americans betrayed the negotiations and reneged on their own signature."

Pakistan's Chief of Defence Forces Asim Munir visits Tehran to revive mediation efforts

On 23 August, Pakistan's Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Asim Munir, and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Tehran to revive Islamabad's role as a mediator between Iran and the United States. "Our discussion focused on the Iran-

US conflict, tensions in the Middle East, the way forward, and the steps needed by both sides for the restoration of the Islamabad MoU,” [Naqvi said](#) in a post on X

Ahead of his visit to Tehran, US President Donald Trump had a telephone conversation. Trump sought to use Pakistan's influence to bring Iran back to negotiations, even as he warned of economic consequences against any country that provided "any type of lifeline to Iran." Subsequently, Treasury Secretary [Scott Bessent](#) unveiled a sweeping campaign of financial sanctions and diplomatic pressure designed to sever Iran's remaining links to the global economy. Dubbed "Operation Economic Outcast," the initiative aims to close loopholes in the existing US financial dragnet around Iran. The US military has "significantly dismantled Iran's military capabilities and weakened its nuclear programme. Now we are entering endgame," Bessent stated while announcing sanctions targeting five key sectors of the Iranian economy: cryptocurrency, weapons-related technologies, gold used to stabilise Iranian currency, and Iran's airlines and shipping. Iran's security chief [Mohsen Rezaei](#), in his meeting with Munir, voiced distrust of the US and stressed Iran's security control over the Strait of Hormuz. He further noted that Washington must change its behaviour and take practical steps to implement the Islamabad MoU.

Iran-Oman Joint Statement on a temporary joint navigation corridor through the Strait of Hormuz

On 25 August, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his Omani counterpart, Minister Badr Albusaidi, made a [joint statement](#) on the establishment of a temporary joint navigation corridor through the Strait of Hormuz and an agreement to

implement a joint project to clear the Strait of mines. Albusaidi was on a working visit to Tehran as part of ongoing consultations between Iran and Oman on jointly managing transit through the strait. The statement noted that "technical negotiations between the two sides would continue with a view to agreeing on a permanent navigational corridor and future administration of the Strait, as well as a mechanism for information-sharing, traffic management, and the provision of relevant navigational and security services." It also emphasised the importance of convening joint discussions with regional states bordering the waters of the Gulf. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Kazem Gharibabadi, noted that the announced "[temporary arrangement](#) reached between Tehran and Muscat will not automatically enter the implementation phase, as its implementation is conditional upon the fulfilment of commitments by the other party, specifically the United States".

Qatari Foreign Minister visits Tehran

On 27 August, Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani travelled to Tehran as part of the [mediation efforts](#). The visit by Al Thani, who is also the Foreign Minister of Qatar, focussed on the issue of the Strait of Hormuz and "the need for it to return to the status quo before February 28". Araghchi and Al Thani discussed a proposed framework that includes creating a temporary shipping corridor through the Strait of Hormuz, as well as a possible "[joint project](#)" to clear the strait of mines, the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement. Al Thani also met parliament speaker and top negotiator, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who emphasised the need to de-escalate regional tensions.